# Domestic Girlfriend

## 5

KEI SASUGA

# Domestic Girlfriend

## 5

DOME
GIRL

KEI SASUGA

# DOME GIRL

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# CHAPTER 36: SUSPICIONS

HNN...
MMF.
I FINALLY...
...GOT A REAL ONE IN.
...?
THE LAST TIME WE KISSED WAS WHEN YOU PUSHED ME DOWN.

OH,
YOU'RE RIGHT!
THAT HAPPENED TO BE MY FIRST KISS, Y'KNOW.
WHAT?! I'M SO SORRY!
IT MADE MY HEART RACE, THOUGH.
THEN USE TODAY ...
...TO OVERWRITE THAT FIRST KISS.
PEK チュッ…
クプ…
CHUP
...

SWIF
スル…
I'M ...
NOT SURE IF I CAN STOP.
IS IT OKAY ...
SEN-SEI?
...
!

SEN-SEI?
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO.
IT'S NOT, BUT ...
I JUST THINK ...
...WE DON'T HAVE TO RUSH THINGS.
WAIT THERE.
I'LL MAKE SOME COFFEE.
DON'T WORRY.

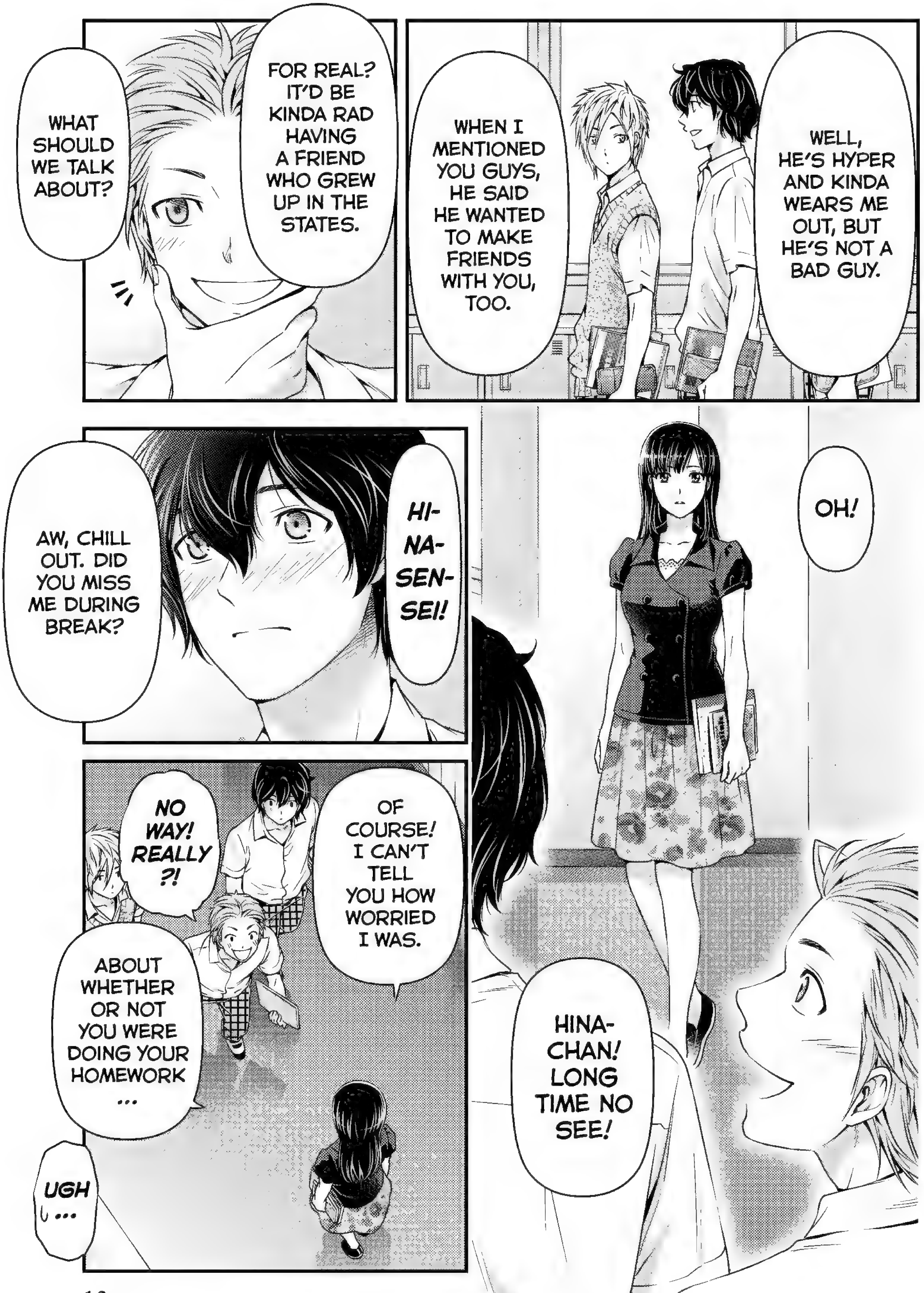
WE ONLY JUST GOT TOGETHER.
THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF CHANCES IN THE FUTURE.
FOR NOW,
LET'S JUST TAKE IT SLOWLY, ONE STEP AT A TIME, OKAY?
SENSEI...
WHY...?
... SURE.
THE BREAK WENT BY IN A FLASH, HUH?

DID YOU FINISH YOUR STORY FOR THE PUBLICATION?
MORE OR LESS.
WHAT KINDA THEME DID YOU END UP GOING WITH?
TRASHY YAKUZA MYSTERY.
WHA ?!
YAKU–
HUH ?!
I HAPPENED TO HAVE SOME MATERIAL TO WORK WITH.
YOU DID A LOVE STORY, RIGHT?
THAT REMINDS ME, I STILL HAVEN'T READ YOUR LAST STORY.
LET ME READ IT SOMETIME.
S-SURE.
EVENTUALLY...
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
NAT-CHAAAN!
It's great to see you!
GLOMP
A-ALEX...!
KOF
ゲホ
ゲホ
KOF
I START GOIN' TO YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!
AWW, YEAH!
I WON'T BE LONELY WITH YOU AROUND!
OH, YEAH. THIS IS THE GUY I MENTIONED.
FROM THE PANTY THIEF INCIDENT.

かぁぁぁっ
BLUSH
Er...
Pleased to meet you.
FIDG もじ
もじ FIDG
My name is Alex J. Matsukawa.
Please, call me Al...
もじ FIDG
JAPANESE. USE JAPANESE.
I'M RUI TACHIBANA.
NICE TO MEET YOU...
ぱぁぁっ
BEAM
RUI! RUI-CHAN!
SNATCH ガッ
しっ
SAME HERE!
LET'S BE FRIENDS, OKAY?!
OH, YEAH. WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
LET ME IN ON IT!
NOT MUCH...
JUST ABOUT CLUB.
CLUB!
THE FAMOUS BUKATSU, RIGHT?

ARE YOU GUYS IN A CLUB?
YEAH, THE LITERATURE CLUB.
BOTH OF YOU?
THEN I'LL JOIN, TOO!
FACULTY
AND ...
HERE WE ARE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HE DOESN'T SEEM THAT INTERESTED IN NOVELS, BUT...
WELL, WE DO ALREADY HAVE KASHIWABARA-KUN ON BOARD.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A WRITER, DO YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS YOU LIKE?

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS!
THAT'S A KIDS' STORY!
HA, HA.
WHY NOT? IF HE WANTS TO JOIN, HE'S MORE THAN WELCOME.
AFTER ALL, THERE'S A PERK TO HAVING HIM JOIN.
PERK?
WITH FIVE MEMBERS, THE CLUB WILL BECOME OFFICIAL,
WHICH MEANS WE'LL GET A BUDGET.
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
HUH. DURING THE BREAK?
AND NOW THAT AMERICAN TRANSFER STUDENT FROM CLASS 5'S ATTACHED TO YOU?
LEAVE IT TO A LEGIT YANKEE TO BLOW THROUGH THE HALLS ON A BIKE.
キ キ


WELL, HE'S HYPER AND KINDA WEARS ME OUT, BUT HE'S NOT A BAD GUY.
WHEN I MENTIONED YOU GUYS, HE SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOU, TOO.
FOR REAL? IT'D BE KINDA RAD HAVING A FRIEND WHO GREW UP IN THE STATES.
WHAT SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT?
OH!
HINA-CHAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HI-NA-SEN-SEI!
AW, CHILL OUT. DID YOU MISS ME DURING BREAK?
OF COURSE! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW WORRIED I WAS.
NO WAY! REALLY?!
ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE DOING YOUR HOMEWORK...
UGH...

I HAVE CLASS 4 IN THE AFTERNOON. MAKE SURE YOU TURN IT IN THEN.
UHH ...
I KINDA FORGOT IT TODAY, SO...
JEEZ ...
WHISH
TURN IT IN TOMORROW, THEN!
OTHERWISE I'LL GIVE YOU A PENALTY.
GAHH! SERIOUSLY?
I GOTTA BORROW SOMEONE ELSE'S.
PRETTY SURE EVERYONE WHO DID THEIRS TURNED IT IN ALREADY.

DING キーン
DONG コーン
DANG カーン…
KREEK キイ…
NATSUO-KUN…
WHAT'S UP?
SORRY TO AMBUSH YOU LIKE THIS.
I SAW YOU GO INTO THE BATHROOM.
…
I THOUGHT THIS WHEN I WENT TO YOUR APARTMENT, TOO, BUT…

...EVEN THOUGH I'M READY...
...MAYBE YOU'RE NOT, SENSEI.
KREEK キィ...
...
SHF SHF
SORRY, I'M NOT TRYING TO PESTER YOU OR ANYTHING.
I'M JUST...
ANXIOUS.
AM I...
BEING A DRAG?
DON'T SAY THAT.
BEING DETERMINED AND RUSHING TO AN EARLY GRAVE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
I'M BEING *CAUTIOUS* BECAUSE I CARE ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP.

I FEEL THE SAME AS YOU, NATSUO-KUN.
I WANT YOU TO BE SURE OF THAT.
...
SEN-SEI...
GET DOWN!
FWIP
?!
THE VICE PRINCIPAL JUST CAME DOWN THE HALL.
THAT WAS CLOSE...
...
I GET THAT...
...YOU'RE DOING THINGS LIKE THIS FOR US.
BUT PLEASE DON'T AVOID ME TOO MUCH.
MY HEART CAN'T TAKE IT...
OKAY...

カララ
SLIDE
ざわ CHAT
ざわ CHAT
ざわ CHAT
ざわ CHAT
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN,
HARAGUCHI-SENSEI?
TACHIBANA-SENSEI!
A DISTASTEFUL LETTER WAS FAXED TO THE OFFICE...
DISTASTEFUL?
YES.
SOMETHING ABOUT A LEWD TEACHER.

たっ
TAP
EXCUSE ME. CAN I SEE IT?
THIS "DISTASTEFUL LETTER."
A LEWD TEACHER
2015 09/01 FAX 03 XXX6
REIJI KIRIYA IS A LEWD TEACHER!

# CHAPTER 37: SECRET

03 XX
REIJI KIRIYA IS A LEWD TEACHER
...
TACHIBANA-SENSEI.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
JI KIRIYA A LEWD HER!
NO ...
NOTHING.
IT CAN'T BE.

KIRIYA-SENSEI ...?
ガラッ
SLIDE
KIRIYA-SENSEI ...
OH?
WHAT'S WITH THE HUDDLE?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WE JUST RECEIVED A DISTASTEFUL LETTER WITH YOUR NAME ON IT...
HERE.

ふっ
PFF
ビリッ
SHRRRT
!
SE-
SEN-SEI!
DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THIS TRASH?
...
ブルルルッ
BRRRR

CLAK カチャ
HELLO?
YES...
ALL RIGHT.
KIRIYA-SENSEI.
THE PRINCIPAL WANTS TO SEE YOU.
APPARENTLY, THE SAME LETTER WAS FAXED TO THE OTHER FACULTY ROOMS, TOO...
UNDERSTOOD.
Modern Japanese Self-Study
OH, MAN!
SELF-STUDY FOR MODERN JAPANESE? NICE.
I'M SAVED! I SHOULD COPY SOMEONE'S HOMEWORK WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE.
...

ON THE FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL?
キイ
KREEK
HEY, HEY!
LET'S GO SEE A MOVIE TODAY.
SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT DO YOU WANNA SEE?
A LOVE STORY! ♥
REALLY?
ALL RIGHT, I GUESS.
...
I'M JEALOUS.
I WANNA GO ON DATES WITH SENSEI, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WHOLE KIRIYA-SENSEI DEAL?
?
WELL, THEY SAY WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE.
RIGHT?
THERE WERE RUMORS LIKE THAT GOING AROUND BEFORE, TOO.

HOW HE SLEPT WITH A STUDENT...
...!
HE TRANSFERRED HERE FROM HIS LAST SCHOOL FOR A SIMILAR INCIDENT, DIDN'T HE?
I WONDER WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM.
IT COULD MEAN BIG TROUBLE IF WORD OF THIS GETS OUT.
NO WAY...
KIRIYA-SENSEI...
...AND A STUDENT?!
...
IT'S SAD THAT...
...I CAN'T SAY IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, GIVEN HIS CHARACTER.

UGH...
I'M SO CURIOUS, I COULDN'T FOCUS ON CLASS ALL AFTERNOON...
BUT THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT,
THE MORE I REALIZE HOW LITTLE I KNOW ABOUT KIRIYA-SENSEI.
カララ
SLIDE
AH!
LONG TIME NO SEE, FUJII-KUN!
NO KIDDING!
HOW'VE YOU BEEN, ASHIHARA-SAN?
GOOD.
I WAS KIND OF UNDER THE WEATHER TOWARD THE END OF BREAK, THOUGH.
OH, YEAH. I BROUGHT PHOTOS FROM THE CAMPING TRIP.
I MADE COPIES FOR EVERYONE.

HE'S THE KINDA GUY WHO CAN DO THAT WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE.
I GUESS I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM...
ALSO...
...HERE'S YOUR NOVEL BACK.
THANKS FOR LENDING IT TO ME.
O-OH! SURE!
IT WAS REALLY GOOD.
I READ IT THREE TIMES OVER THE BREAK.
I REALLY LIKED HOW THE PROTAGONIST KEPT FALLING DEEPER IN LOVE WITH HER, DESPITE KNOWING HE SHOULDN'T.
AND HOW HE WAS SO DESPERATE TO STAND AS HER EQUAL.
THOSE PARTS MADE ME THINK, "I KNOW EXACTLY HOW THAT FEELS!"

I GOT SO INVOLVED IN THE STORY...
THAT I ACTUALLY CRIED AT THE END.
DID YOU WRITE THIS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, FUJII-KUN?
*HUH ?!*
*N-NAH, IT'S MOSTLY FANTASY...*
*WH-WHAT ABOUT YOU, ASHIHARA-SAN?*
*HAVE YOU...*
*EVER FALLEN FOR A TEACHER BEFORE?*
HUH ...?
*ERR ...*
*I MEAN, YOU SAID YOU KNOW HOW THAT FEELS, SO...*
O-OH, PLEASE!
I WAS ONLY IMAGINING, TOO!
YOUR COMPOSITION WAS JUST SO WELL DONE.

IT JUST MADE ME... ADMIRE THAT SORT OF THING.
YOU KNOW?
NOVELS TEND TO MAKE YOUR FEELINGS RESONATE WITH THE CHARACTERS', RIGHT?
HUH...?
DON'T TELL ME...
HOW HE SLEPT WITH A STUDENT...
WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION?

WHEN I SAW THEM TOGETHER IN THE CLUBROOM...
...IT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE KISSING.
SHE SAID SHE WAS PICKING AN EYELASH OFF HIS FACE...
...BUT IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

☆Refreshing Chicken and Daikon Stew
UMM.
TURN THE HEAT DOWN TO LOW AND SIMMER...
SORRY! IT LOOKS LIKE DINNER WILL TAKE A WHILE.
YOU SURE YOU SHOULDN'T GO HOME?
IT'S COOL. I TEXTED THEM SAYING I'M AT A FRIEND'S PLACE.
LET'S SEE... NEXT ARE THE SIDE DISHES.
SEN-SEI...
DID KIRIYA-SENSEI...
...GET INTO TROUBLE OR SOMETHING?
HUH...?
I OVERHEARD SOME OTHER TEACHERS TALKING ABOUT IT.

...
IT'S NOTHING MAJOR.
AN ANONYMOUS LETTER WAS FAXED TO THE STAFF ROOM.
I'M SURE IT WAS JUST A PRANK.
ONE ACCUSING HIM OF SLEEPING WITH A STUDENT?
DO YOU...
...KNOW SOMETHING, SENSEI?
IF...
HYPOTHETICALLY,
IF THAT RUMOR WAS TRUE...
AND THE PROBLEM CAME TO LIGHT,
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO KIRIYA-SENSEI?

... I DON'T KNOW.
BUT,
FROM WHAT A TEACHER WHO'D BEEN WORKING THERE LONG BEFORE I CAME ON TOLD ME...
...THE PARENTS OF A STUDENT HE WAS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP FOUND OUT...
...AND PRESSURED HIM INTO RESIGNING.
RESIGN?!
WHEN I HEARD A SCANDALOUS LETTER SHOWED UP...
...I WAS TERRIFIED.
I WASN'T SURE WHAT I'D DO IF YOUR FUTURE GOT SCREWED UP BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.
IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT ENDED UP FOLLOWING YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, I...
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO RELIEVED WHEN I FOUND OUT IT WASN'T ADDRESSED TO ME.
BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER, I FELT SORRY...

OF COURSE,
I WAS SCARED THAT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER IF I GOT FIRED...
BUT MORE THAN THAT, I WAS WORRIED YOU'D–
ギュ
HUG
っ
...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I PROMISE I WON'T MAKE YOU WORRY.
I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU'RE THINKING SO MUCH ABOUT ME.
BUT *I'M* WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SENSEI.

SO,
LET'S JUST KEEP THIS ...
...OUR LITTLE SECRET.

... HM?
SENSEI ...
IS SOMETHING BURNING?
HUH?!
NOOO!
CHARCOAL!
炭!!
WHY?! I FOLLOWED THE STEPS EXACTLY!
I'M INNOCENT!
SENSEI, THE HEAT IS TOO STRONG.
THIS IS MEDIUM, NOT LOW!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
AFTER ALL THAT WORK!
WAHHH!
IT'S COOL.
I'M FINE WITH RAMEN TONIGHT ...

# CHAPTER 38:
# HEIGHTENED SUSPICIONS

WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH YET,
BUT I DON'T THINK KIRIYA-SENSEI IS AN IRRESPONSIBLE MAN.
EVEN IF THE PROBLEM GETS WORSE AND PEOPLE START ATTACKING HIM,
I WANT TO STAND BY HIM.
WHO KNOWS?
HE MIGHT BE IN THE SAME BOAT AS US...
タ TAP
タ TAP
タ TAP
タ
タ TAP ッ

NATSUO-KUUUN.
MORNING! ♥
OHH, MOMO...
MORNIN'.
HUH? YOU DIDN'T MEET RUI ON THE WAY?
ER...YEAH. I GUESS SHE HAS HER WEEKLY DUTY TODAY.
REALLY? I GUESS I GET YOU ALL TO MYSELF TODAY! ♥
SQUEEZE
H-HEY!
I CAN FEEL THEM...
FEEL WHAT?
Y-YOUR CHEST...
BECAUSE I'M PRESSING THEM AGAINST YOU. ♥
ERG...
I DIDN'T GET TO SEE YOU OVER THE BREAK, SO I MISSED YOU.
OH, YEAH. YOU WENT OVERSEAS WITH YOUR MOM AFTER THE CAMPING TRIP, HUH?
HOW WAS IT?

GREAT!
BUT I BET IT WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT MORE FUN IF YOU WERE WITH ME. ♥
SOOO...
SLIP
す
るっ
WHY DON'T WE...
...GO ON A DATE THIS SUNDAY? ♥
HUH ...?
A D.A.T.E. ♥
... SORRY.
I DON'T THINK...
...I CAN ...
DO THAT.
WHAAAT?! WHY NOT?!
DO YOU HAVE PLANS ALREADY ?!
AH! IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?!
DID YOU GET A GIRLFRIEND ?!

NO WAY!
WHO?!
TELL ME!
UH-OH...
NO, NO.
NOTHING LIKE THAT...
ALOOF けろっ
THEN LET'S GO.
OKAY! IT'S A DATE. ♥
...
S-SAY, SPEAKING OF CRUSHES.
DO YOU THINK ASHIHARA-SAN, UMM...
IS GOING OUT WITH ANYONE?
HUH?
WHY DO YOU CARE?
DON'T TELL ME...
NO!
I JUST HAD A FEELING, SO, Y'KNOW...
MYU-CHAN SAID SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND,
BUT SHE DID SAY SHE HAS A CRUSH ON SOMEONE.
SHE WOULDN'T TELL ME WHO, THOUGH.
NO BOYFRIEND...
WELL, OF COURSE SHE'D HIDE IT...
CHATTER ざわ
CHATTER ざわ

*REIJI KIRIYA IS A LEWD TEACHER. FIRE HIM IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT THE?
...!
IT DIDN'T JUST STOP AT A LETTER.
WHO COULD'VE DONE THIS?

ARCHIVE
JUST LIKE PREVIOUS YEARS, I THINK WE SHOULD PRINT 100 COPIES...
...AND SELL THEM AT 300 YEN* EACH.

*APPROX. 3 USD.

HERE IS THE ESTIMATE, SENSEI.
ALL RIGHT. I ASSUME WE'LL USE THE SAME PUBLISHER AS LAST YEAR?
HEY, MYU-CHAN. WHERE DO YOU SELL THE FINISHED BOOKS?
UMM...
LAST YEAR WE SET UP A TABLE OUTSIDE THE CLUBROOM AND SOLD THEM THERE.
WHY DON'T WE TURN THE CLUBROOM INTO A CAFÉ WHILE WE'RE AT IT?
WE CAN DRESS UP AS WAITRESSES AND SERVE TEA WHILE PEOPLE READ.
OOH!
GOOD IDEA! I BET YOU'D ALL LOOK GREAT. ♪
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE YOU WON'T BE INCLUDED?
YOU DIDN'T WRITE ANYTHING, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A WAITRESS, TOO.
What?!
NO, NO, NO. YOU MEAN WAITER, RIGHT?
I MEAN WAITRESS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SENSEI?

HA, HA.
SURE, WHY NOT?
I'M CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT MATSUKAWA-KUN LOOKS LIKE AS A WAITRESS, TOO.
I'LL PUT THE REQUEST IN.
YAY! ♥
OKAY...
WE'LL SELL THE BOOKS AT THE CAFÉ...
HEY...
KIRIYA-SENSEI?
DID YOU REALLY...
...DO SOMETHING LEWD WITH A STUDENT?

OH!
Y'MEAN THAT THING THAT WAS WRITTEN ON THE WALL THIS MORNING?
SO, LEWD IS HOW YOU READ THAT...
WHAT'S IT MEAN?
UHH, LIKE SEXUAL STUFF, I GUESS.
HUH ?!
NAUGHTY STUFF?
WELL?
...
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOUR IMAGINATION.
AWW.
HOW CAN WE KNOW, THEN?
Oh...
I-IMAGINATION...

YOU MIGHT BE FORCED TO RESIGN IF THIS MATTER SPREADS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL, SENSEI.
IF IT'S ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING, THEN I THINK YOU SHOULD FIRMLY DENY IT.
YEAH! EVEN IF IT'S TRUE, I WON'T THINK ANY LESS OF YOU.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO MIGHT'VE DONE THE GRAFFITI, MR. KIRIYA?
AND REFUSING TO DENY IT CAN ALSO BE TAKEN AS ADMITTING IT'S TRUE...
CLATR
*WE'RE HERE...*
*...TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL!*

LET'S JUST TRY TO STAY ON TOPIC,
OKAY?!
SKSH
TA-DAAA!

WELL?
LO-
LOOKS GOOD.
DO I LOOK CUTE? DO I?
YEAH...
I'LL TAKE IT, THEN! ♥
SENSEI...
IT'S FINE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
HAVE FUN.
...SAID NOT TO WORRY,
BUT I FEEL GUILTY TOWARD BOTH OF THEM NOW.

I BOUGHT A TON!
I'LL HAVE TO DO A FASHION SHOW WHEN I GET HOME.
ARE YOU...
...THINKING ABOUT SENSEI?
...!
MY CLASS HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT ALL WEEK.
GIRLS WHO WERE SECRET ADMIRERS OF KIRIYA-SENSEI SEEM PRETTY TORN UP OVER IT.
OHH... *KIRIYA-*SENSEI.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING, NATSUO-KUN?
HUH?
MYU-CHAN'S BEEN PRETTY DOWN SINCE THEN, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT MAYBE SENSEI WAS THE ONE SHE HAD A CRUSH ON.

PLUS YOU ASKED ME IF THERE WAS ANYONE SHE LIKED RIGHT BEFORE WE SAW THE GRAFFITI RIGHT?
THE TIMING WAS TOO PERFECT, SO I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING.
STARE
じっ
SH-
SHE'S SHARP...
NO, THAT WAS JUST BECAUSE...
SHE SAID THE ROMANCE NOVEL I WROTE STRUCK A CHORD WITH HER.
OH, IS THAT ALL?
BUT I WONDER WHO DID THAT, ANYWAY.
SOMEONE MUST REALLY HAVE IT OUT FOR KIRIYA-SENSEI.
OR MAYBE THERE'S A POWER STRUGGLE GOING ON BETWEEN THE TEACHERS AND...
!
HEY...
LOOK!

!
ANDO
MYU-CHAN AND... KIRIYA-SENSEI?!
...!
C-C'MON.
LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK.
SHF SHF
YEAH.
LOOKS KINDA SERIOUS.
MAYBE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GRAFFITI.
IS ASHIHARA-SAN CRYING...?
LOOKS LIKE IT. SHE'S USING A HANDKERCHIEF.
AH!
DASH

THERE SHE GOES ...
...
HEY ...
I KNOW HE'S OUR ADVISOR, BUT MEETING A STUDENT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, JUST THE TWO OF THEM...
IS KINDA SHADY, DON'T YOU THINK?
I KNEW IT.
NATSUO-KUN, DO YOU THINK...
THE ONE KIRIYA-SENSEI SEDUCED IS...?
MY GUT WAS RIGHT!
THOSE TWO...
...ARE DATING!

赤森商店街掲示板
赤森高校
文化祭
9
18 19 20
絶対。
AKAMORI HIGH SCHOOL
CULTURAL FESTIVAL
9/18.19.20

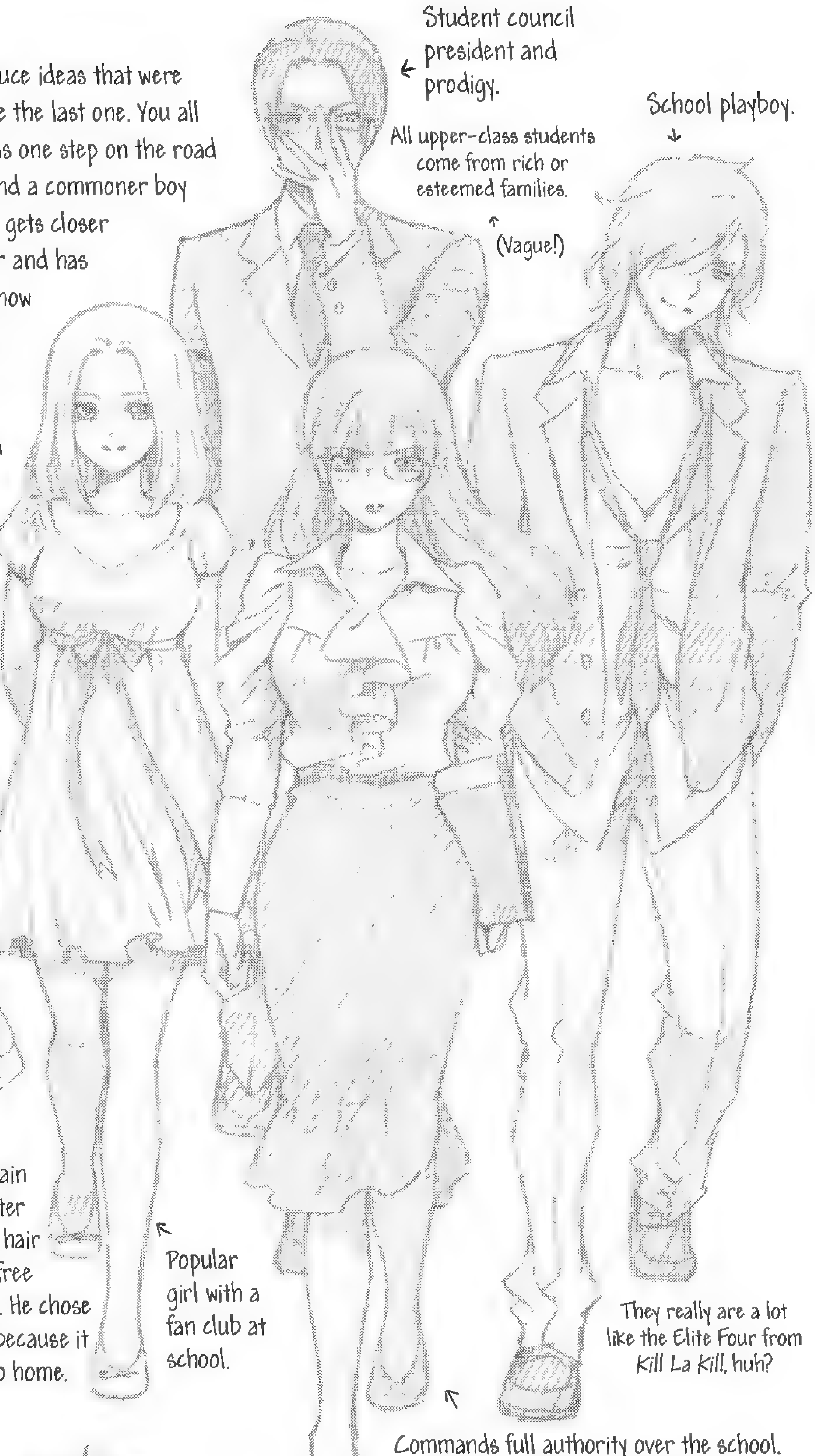
# CHAPTER 39:
# CULTURAL FESTIVAL

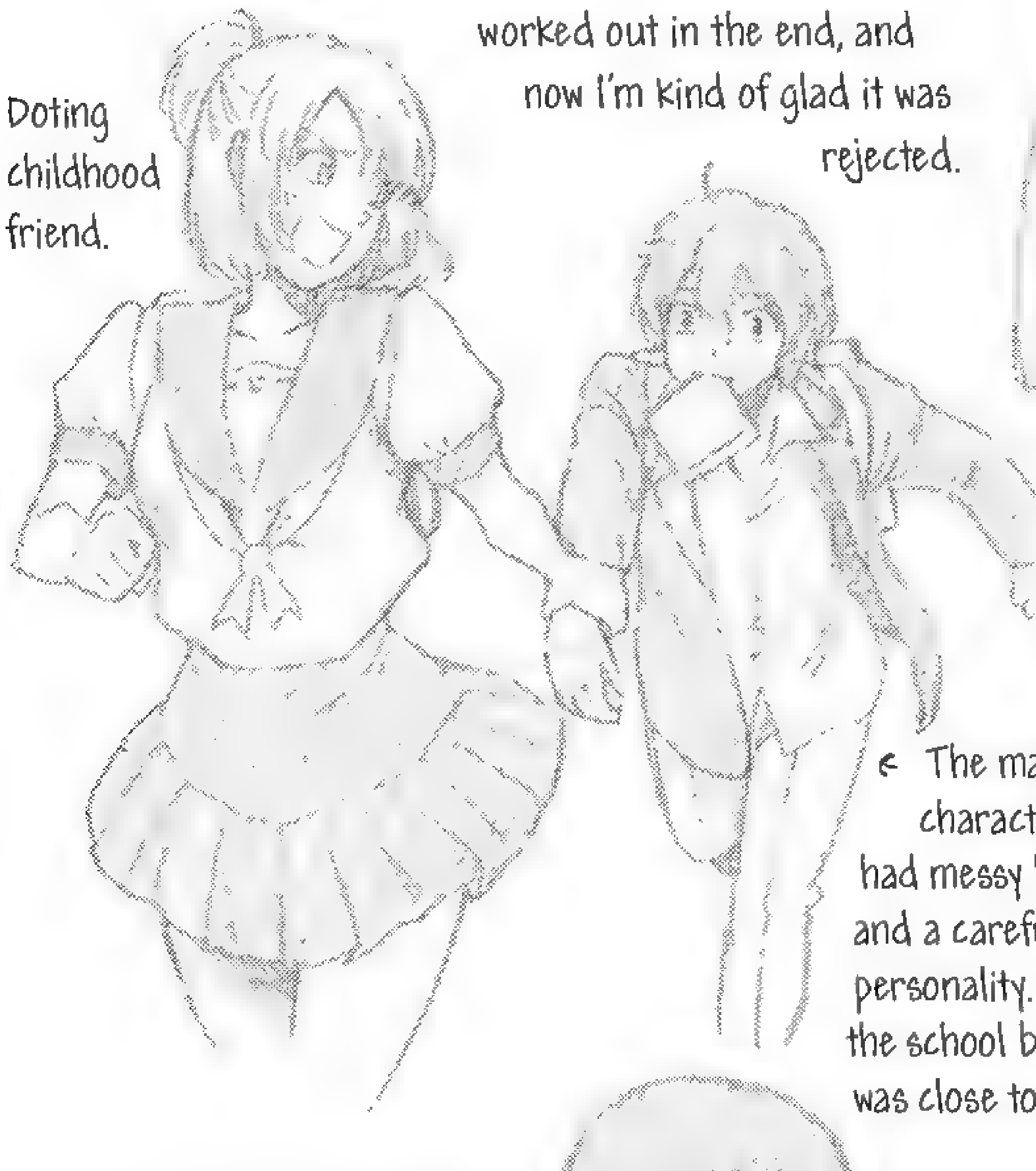
# BONUS PROJECT DOMESTIC GIRLFRIEND: IN THE MAKING ③

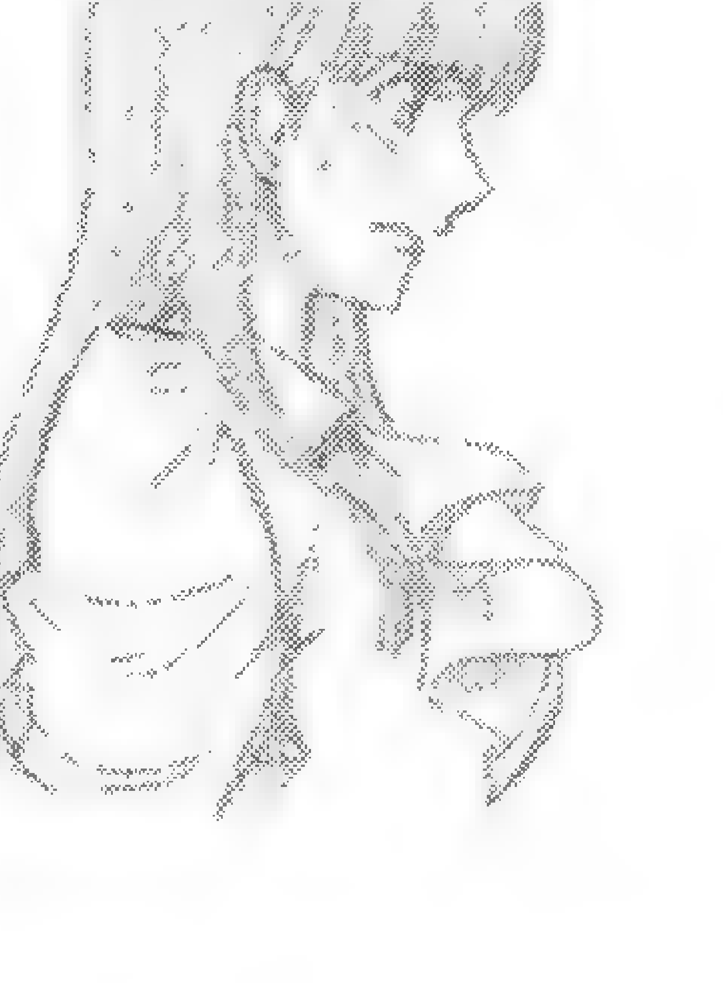
Response

Greetings! (Hello!) This is the usual segment where I introduce ideas that were rejected before DG came to be. I think this might actually be the last one. You all might be baffled by the art to the right, but yes, this, too, was one step on the road leading to *Domestic Girlfriend*. The concept centered around a commoner boy who enters a school with a strict caste system and gradually gets closer to a female teacher who acts as an agent for the headmaster and has the school under her thumb. Writing about it now, I realize how cliché this idea was... If you asked me how I came up with it, I'd have to say it's because I loved stories involving schools with clashes of status such as *Rival Schools*, *To My Elder Brother...*, *CLAMP School Detectives*, *Rika the Breeder*, and so on. Also, I like battle manga, so I greatly admire the Big Four. I'm pretty simple!

After this storyboard was rejected and the one for DG was accepted, an anime called *Kill La Kill* started being broadcast on TV. It had all my favorite themes jam-packed into one show, so I got my fix for a caste system school through that. Everything worked out in the end, and now I'm kind of glad it was rejected.


Student council president and prodigy.
All upper-class students come from rich or esteemed families.
(Vague!)
School playboy.
Popular girl with a fan club at school.
They really are a lot like the Elite Four from *Kill La Kill*, huh?
Commands full authority over the school. Rumored to be the headmaster's mistress or illegitimate child.


Doting childhood friend.
The main character had messy hair and a carefree personality. He chose the school because it was close to home.


A teacher who's always lived in high society clashes with the lighthearted protagonist and treats him like a problem student, but gradually opens her heart to him.

Boy, there was a lot of trial and error involved before I came up with *Domestic Girlfriend* (this title was only decided on shortly before the serialization began, too) in its current form. I hope you all enjoyed this behind-the-scenes look. I hope to do another project like this if I come up with one, but for now, that does it for Domestic Girlfriend: in the Making! Toodles! (my age is revealed...) 流石景 SASUGA KEI

FLUFFY COTTON CANDY
STRUCK-OUT
1 PLAY 100 YEN
ENTRANCE
CHOC
BANA
150
YEN
HOUSE OF HORROR
WHACK-A-MOLE
REST AREA
2F
ART CLUB
AKAMORI HIGH CULTURAL FESTIVAL
ATWURST
200 YEN EACH
ドン
THUD

WE GOT THE BOOKS BACK FROM THE PRINTERS.
WOW! IT'S A REAL BOOK!
AWESOME!♥
WHOA... IT'S REALLY WELL-MADE.
IT'S THANKS TO EVERYONE JOINING THAT WE WERE ABLE TO RELEASE A PUBLICATION AGAIN THIS YEAR.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
AH, IT WAS NO BIGGIE!
YOU DIDN'T WRITE ANYTHING.
I FEEL KINDA BAD FOR BEING IN IT EVEN THOUGH MY WRITING SUCKS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOUR STORY WAS GOOD, KASHIWABARA-SAN.
カララ
SLIDE

HOW'S IT GOING?
EVERYTHING COMING ALONG?
ALL GOOD HERE! ♪
THE BOOKS ARRIVED SAFELY.
IT TURNED OUT TO BE A HEFTY PUBLICATION.
GOOD WORK ON THE EDITING, ASHIHARA-KUN.
I'LL BE IN THE STAFF ROOM IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
DON'T STAY BEHIND TOO LATE NOW.
Yes, sir!
H-
HEY, ASHIHARA-SAN?

HM?
UMM.
IT'S PROBABLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...
HOW DO I PUT THIS...
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BE MORE CAREFUL NOT TO GET CAUGHT.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMEONE MIGHT BE WATCHING.
HUH?
ERR...
I'M NOT TRYING TO CRITICIZE YOU OR ANYTHING!
I JUST THOUGHT I'D WARN YOU...
SO-
SORRY FOR PREACHING...

ドンッ
BANG
BANG
ドンッ ドンッ
BANG
AKAMORI HIGH SCHOOL
CULTURAL FESTIVAL
welcome!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! YOU CAN SEE MY UNDERPANTS!
THAT'S JUST HOW MINISKIRTS ARE.
SKSH
SORRY FOR THE WAIT! ♥

WAITRESS TRANSFORMATION
COMPLETE!♥
THANK GOD. I'M SO GLAD MY COSTUMES FIT YOU GUYS.
I'M SURPRISED YOU HAD THESE LYING AROUND...
I HAVE A LOT OF CLOTHES AT HOME FROM WHEN I DATED A GUY WHO WAS INTO COSPLAY.
YOU'RE DONE CHANGING, AREN'T YOU, ALLIE?
GET YOUR BUTT OUT HERE.

BWA HA HA!
DUDE, YOU'RE WAY TOO RIPPED TO PULL THAT OFF!
IT'S A GORILLA! WE'VE GOT A MAID GORILLA OVER HERE!
SHUT UP! I'M NOT WEARING THIS BY CHOICE!
AND WHY AREN'T YOU MAKING NAT-CHAN DRESS UP, TOO?!
カラッ SLIDE
ALL SET, EVERY-ONE?
ぶふっ PFF
IT...
IT LOOKS MORE FETCHING ON YOU THAN I IMAGINED...
I'M SURE YOU'LL ATTRACT QUITE A CROWD...
NOW YOU'RE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME!

YOU LOOK GREAT, TOO, RUI-RUI!
REAL-LY?
YUP! SUPER CUTE.
HUH, NATSUO-KUN?
Y- YEAH...
かぁ
BLUSH
あっ
ALL RIGHT, IT'S ALMOST OPENING TIME.
LET'S DO OUR BEST FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.
'KAAAAY!
TAP トン
TAP トン

SUP?
ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK AROUND FESTIVAL WITH ANYONE?
HUH?
I HAVEN'T MADE ANY PLANS YET...
THEN...
...LET'S WALK AROUND TOGETHER.
OUR BREAK TIMES HAPPEN TO LINE UP, TOO.
SU-
SURE...

FILM CLUB SCREENING
BUKAT
SCREENING
FILM CLUB
WELCOME! ♥
THE PLACE IS PRETTY PACKED.
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ENOUGH CHIFFON CAKE.
THERE ARE ONLY TWO LEFT.

OH!
ISN'T THIS IT?
LOOK, IT'S TRUE!
HA, HA, HA! DUDE, HE'S HUGE!
CAN WE TAKE SOME PICS?
EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THE HUGE BLOND MAID!
NO WAY!
NO PICTURES!
AWW!
YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE THAT BECAUSE YOU WANT PEOPLE TO SEE, RIGHT?
IT'LL MAKE FOR GOOD PUBLICITY IF PHOTOS GET AROUND.
AHH, DO WHAT YOU WANT!
WOO-HOO!
LET'S POST 'EM ON TWITTER.
PLEASE TAKE THEM AT THE SAME TIME.
3. 2. 1
SNAP パシャ
SNAP パシャッ
文芸部
LITERATURE CLUB

PHEW...
I THINK WE'RE PAST THE RUSH NOW.
YOU CAN GO ON BREAK NOW, NATSUO-KUN.
I'LL TAKE OVER.
GOOD WORK TODAY.
YOU, TOO.
I ALREADY WENT TO THE FOOD STALLS.
HERE, I GOT YOU A CHOCOLATE BANANA FROM HINA-NEE'S CLASS.
WHAT SHOULD WE CHECK OUT FIRST?

EXCUSE ME. ONE COPY, PLEASE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THAT'LL BE 300 YEN. ♥
UM ...
MAY I ASK WHO...
...THIS CLUB'S ADVISOR IS?
OUR ADVISOR IS KIRIYA-SENSEI.
HE'S A HOT, KINDA FLAKY, BUT NICE TEACHER.
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
NO ...
I DON'T.

WOW!
WE SOLD 53 COPIES IN JUST THE FIRST DAY!
IS THAT A LOT?
IT'S MORE THAN DOUBLE THE PACE OF PREVIOUS YEARS.
WOW...
Y'THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF ME?!
YEAH, I THINK YOUR CONTRIBUTION HAD A LOT TO DO WITH IT, AL-KUN.
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE FOR PEOPLE TO CASUALLY GET INTO LITERATURE WHO WOULDN'T OTHERWISE.
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOMORROW, AS WELL,
AND SHOW OUR CUSTOMERS A GOOD TIME.
YEAH!

ASHIHARA-SAN! MORNING!
OH.
GOOD MORNING.
YOU GUYS ARE EARLY.
YOU, TOO.
WE WANTED TO GET THINGS READY.
I MADE MORE CAKE THAN YESTERDAY.
REALLY?!
THANKS SO MUCH!
カラ…
SLIDE
WE ENDED UP SELLING OUT IN THE AFTERNOON YESTERDAY, SO...

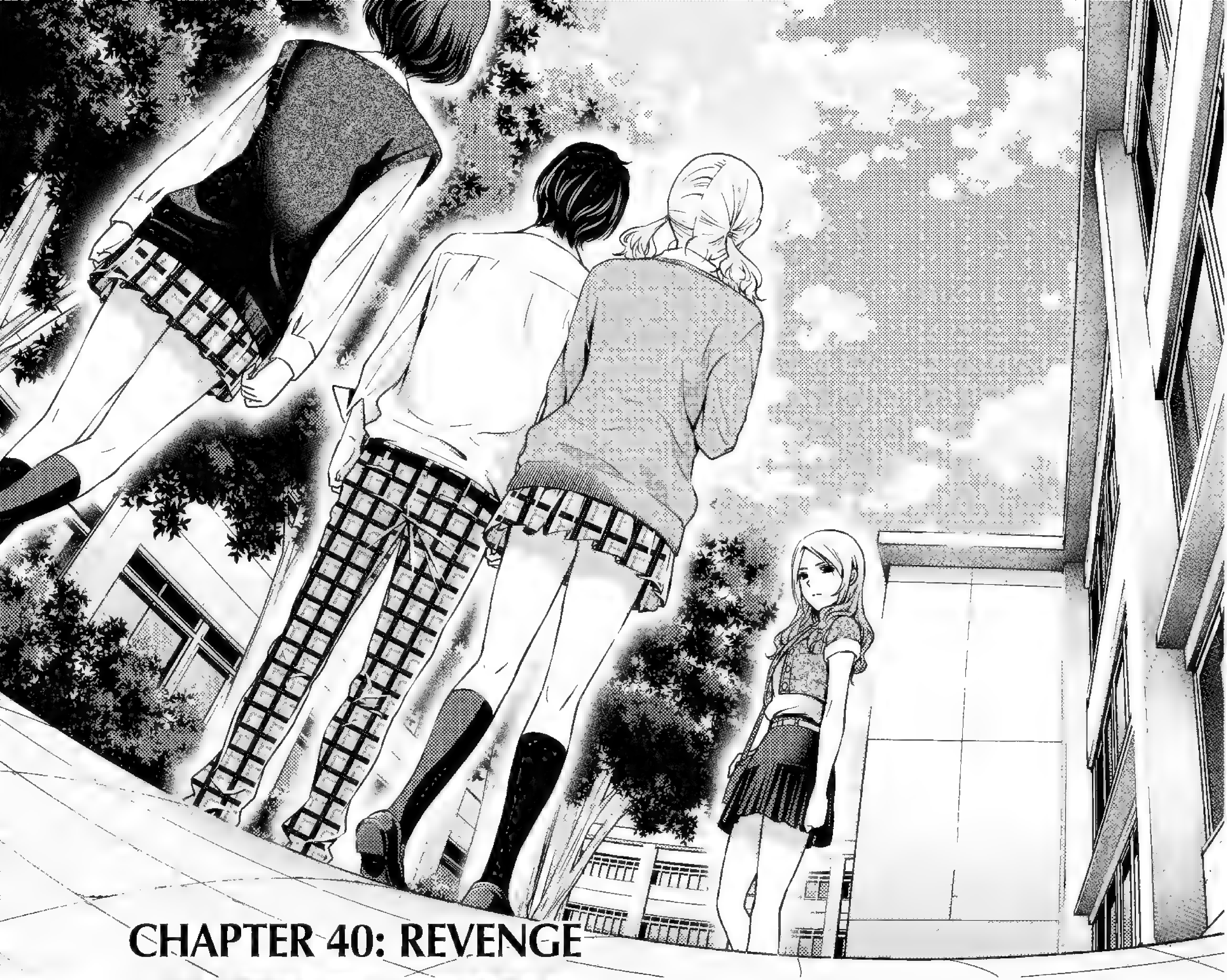
桐谷は辞職しろ!
*MAKE KIRIYA QUIT!
WHA-
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

HOW AWFUL...
WAS IT THE SAME PERSON WHO DID THE GRAFFITI?
I WONDER IF SENSEI'S HERE YET.
I'LL GO GET HIM!
NAT-CHAN!
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW!
THE LEFTOVER BOOKS ARE COVERED IN PAINT. THEY MIGHT BE RUINED...
THE WAITING ROOM IS TRASHED, TOO!
GOD... WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
ビクッ
JOLT

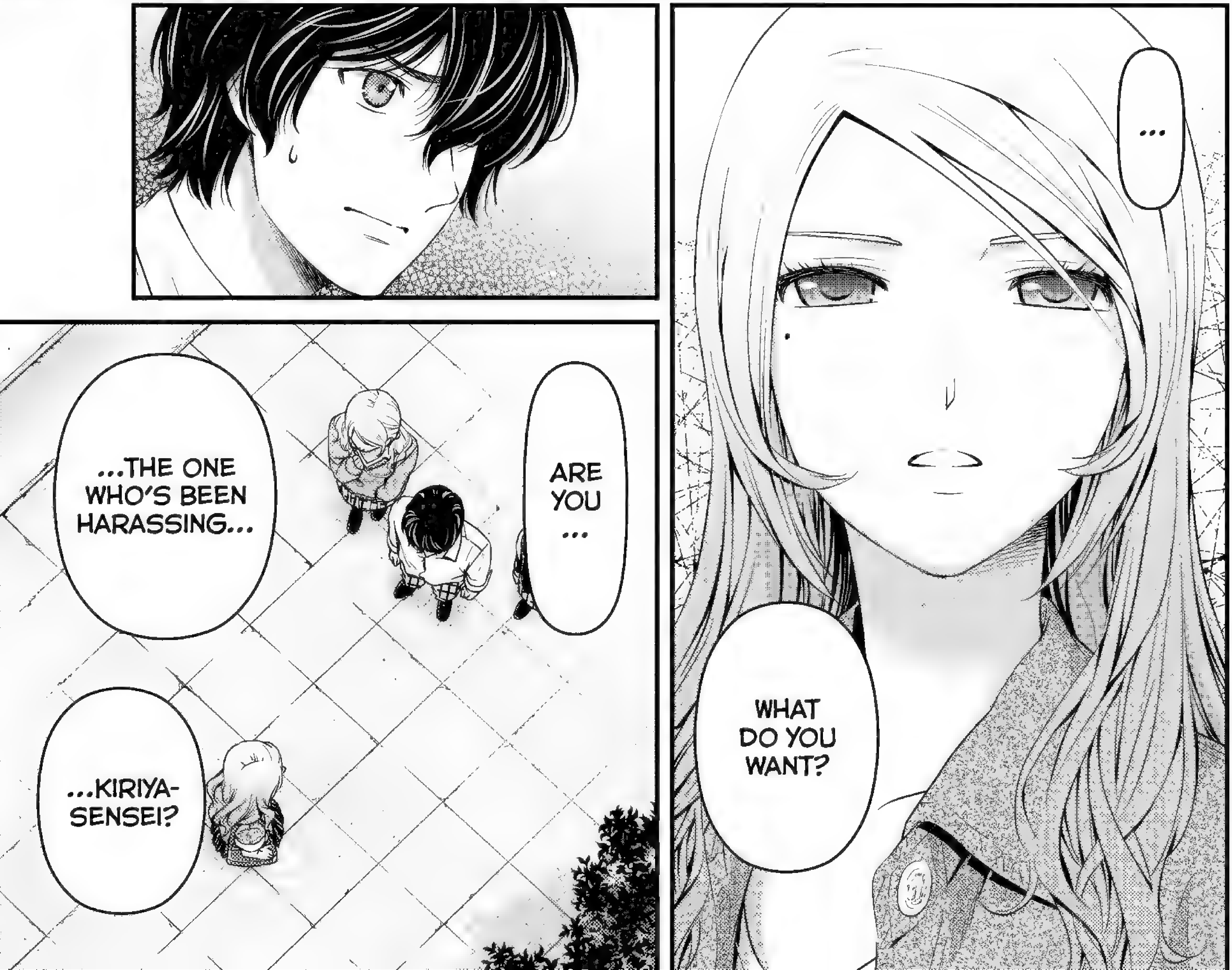
...
THEY PROBABLY DID THIS LAST NIGHT.
MEANING THEY PROBABLY CAME AS A REGULAR CUSTOMER DURING THE DAY.
SO THE CULPRIT IS SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL, HUH?
WAS THERE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS?
GASP
I THINK...
...I SAW SOMEONE.
HUH?!
THEY ASKED ME WHO THE ADVISOR OF THE CLUB WAS,
AND I SAID KIRIYA-SENSEI...

I THOUGHT THAT WAS KIND OF A WEIRD QUESTION TO ASK, BUT...
THAT MUST BE THEM!
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THEY LOOKED?
YEAH. SHE WAS REALLY PRETTY, SO I REMEMBER CLEARLY.
SHE HAD LONG, WAVY HAIR,
AND A BEAUTY MARK UNDER HER RIGHT EYE.
BUT HOW WILL WE FIND HER?
I REALLY DOUBT SHE'D COME TODAY, TOO...
NAH.
THE PERSON DOING THIS HAS A PRETTY STRONG OBSESSION WITH KIRIYA-SENSEI.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THEY'LL COME TO CHECK THE AFTERMATH OF THIS DISASTER.
LET'S SPLIT UP AND SEARCH AS SOON AS THE GATES ARE OPEN!

DAMN IT! I'M ALMOST POSITIVE SHE'S HERE...
...BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF GIRLS WITH WAVY HAIR.
AH!
THAT'S HER!
YOU'RE SURE?!
YEAH!
SHE'S IN THE SAME DENIM JACKET SHE WORE YESTERDAY!
EXCUSE ME!
MAY WE...
...HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?



# CHAPTER 40: REVENGE


...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ARE YOU ...
...THE ONE WHO'S BEEN HARASSING...
...KIRIYA-SENSEI?

HARASSMENT?
SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I HEARD THAT YOU CAME TO OUR CLUB YESTERDAY...
...AND ASKED WHO OUR ADVISOR WAS.
SO...
SO, WHAT?
I WAS JUST CURIOUS.
I JUST THOUGHT THE CLUB MUST HAVE A PRETTY FRIVOLOUS ADVISOR...
IF A CLUB ABOUT LITERATURE WAS RUNNING SUCH A RIDICULOUS CAFÉ.
...!
THANK GOD...
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT US.
?

THE THING IS, KIRIYA-SENSEI AND I...
...ARE GOING OUT.
...
I SEE...
IS IT REALLY OKAY...
FOR A TEACHER AND STUDENT TO BE DATING?

WELL, NOT REALLY...
...BUT HE DID PROMISE TO MARRY ME AFTER I GRADUATE.
AND EVERYONE, INCLUDING MY PARENTS, IS OKAY WITH IT.
SO, I JUST THOUGHT IT HAD TO BE SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL IF THEY'RE CALLING HIM A LEWD TEACHER, Y'KNOW?
I'M SORRY FOR ACCUSING YOU.
MO-MOMO?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ...
SHH.
DON'T YOU THINK ...
...HE'S BEING HARASSED BECAUSE HE'S SUCH A LOWLIFE?
WHAT KIND OF TEACHER PUTS HIS HANDS ON A STUDENT?
AND *MARRIAGE*?
HE'S CRAZY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WE JUST HAPPEN TO BE A TEACHER AND STUDENT.
WE'RE BOTH VERY SERIOUS ABOUT EACH OTHER.

JUST YESTER-DAY...
...HE GAVE ME A VERY PASSIONATE KISS.
THAT'S WHY, I FIGURED WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS IS PROBABLY JUST JEALOUS.
ISN'T THAT AWFUL?
WE CAN'T EVEN SELL OUR BOOKS NOW.
I SEE...
WELL, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO PLAY DETECTIVE,
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HELP YOUR TEACHER CLEAN UP.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'RE SORRY.
WE REALLY SHOULD CLEAN UP THE CLUBROOM SINCE IT'S SUCH A MESS.
OH, BUT...

...WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
WE ONLY MENTIONED *HARASSMENT...*
...AND THAT *OUR BOOKS WERE RUINED.*
CLEAN UP?
HOW DID YOU KNOW OUR CLUBROOM WAS TRASHED?
SKF
FWIP

SNATCH
SO, IT WAS YOU!
YOU SENT THAT LETTER TO THE STAFF ROOM,
AND DREW GRAFFITI ALL OVER THE FRONT GATE!
WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
FOR REVENGE!
HUH?!
RE- RE-VENGE?!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT DID KIRIYA-SENSEI DO TO YOU?!

...
WHAT?! YOU GUYS FOUND HER?!
WAS IT HER?!
SEEMS LIKE IT.
SHE JUST ADMITTED...
...THAT THE HARASSMENT WAS FOR REVENGE.
YOU LOVED KIRIYA-SENSEI,
DIDN'T YOU?

THAT DIRT-BAG?
NO WAY!
I KNEW IT.
I FIGURED THAT WAS THE CASE IF THE CULPRIT WAS A GIRL.
THAT'S WHY I TRICKED YOU,
SO YOU WOULD SPILL THE BEANS.
THAT WAS ALL A LIE.
SILLY GIRL.
IS THIS THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD THINK TO SHOW HIM YOU EXIST?
YOU MUST STILL BE IN LOVE WITH HIM IF YOU'RE THIS OBSESSED.
IF YOU'D HAVE JUST SAT DOWN WITH HIM NOR-MALLY,
YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE ON WITHOUT DOING ALL THAT.
SHUT UP!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!

...!
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID...
THOUGH I HATE TO ADMIT IT.
HE PLAYS MISTER NICE GUY,
PUTS IDEAS IN YOUR HEAD,
THEN THE BASTARD DROPS YOU LIKE A BAD HABIT WHEN HE'S HAD ENOUGH!
KIRIYA-SENSEI WOULDN'T DO THAT!
I ABSOLUTELY LOATHE HIM!
I TRIED TO FORGET HIM, TOO, Y'KNOW!
BUT IT WAS NO USE...
I COULDN'T GET OVER HIM.
IT WAS SO PAINFUL.
AND WHILE I WAS SUFFERING...

...HE WAS OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE PLAYING TEACHER WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD!
HE COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT ME!
I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
I WANT HIM TO PAY...
FOR PUTTING ME THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN!
HE SHOULD SUFFER JUST AS MUCH AS I HAVE!
UHH, ISN'T THAT KINDA MISGUIDED RESENTMENT?
NO ONE PERSON IS AT FAULT IN RELATIONSHIPS MOST OF THE TIME.
IT HAS WEIGHT WHEN MOMO SAYS IT...
BY "SOMEWHERE ELSE..."

...THAT MEANS YOU'RE A FORMER STUDENT OF MR. KIRIYA'S RIGHT?
DID HE DO SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU ACCUSE HIM OF BEING A LEWD TEACHER?
AL-KUN!
KIRIYA-SENSEI WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE JUST BEING SELF-CENTERED!
I...HAVE SIMILAR FEELINGS, TOO.
ASHIHARA-SAN...
BUT TRYING TO FORCE THEM TO RETURN YOUR AFFECTION OR PURPOSEFULLY SHAME THEM...
...IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD NEVER DO TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE!
*YOU DON'T DESERVE...*
*...TO HAVE UNREQUITED LOVE!*

MYU-CHAN...
UN-
UNREQUITED?!
HEH
DID KIRIYA SINK HIS FANGS INTO YOU, TOO?
I PITY YOU.
YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE IT'S POINTLESS.
FWIP

SLAP

FWUMP
SENSEI!!
I KNEW IT HAD TO BE YOU THE MOMENT I SAW THE HANDWRITING.
APOLOGIZE TO THEM.
THAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO SAY TO ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
YOU'RE EVEN LOWER THAN I THOUGHT.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT ME.
APOLOGIZE TO THESE STUDENTS.
HUH? WHY SHOULD I?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH I-
RIGHT NOW!

SLAP
OUR RELATIONSHIP,
AND YOUR FEELINGS,
HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
HEY, LOOK OVER THERE!
ザワ… CHATTER
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THESE STUDENTS...
...PUT THEIR HEARTS INTO MAKING THOSE BOOKS AND TOILED FOR DAYS TO SET UP THAT CLUBROOM.
WHO CARES?!
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT TO BEGIN—
SLAP
SE-
SENSEI...
HAVE YOU BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON...
...WHO CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG?!

THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR.
YOU REALLY HAVE...
...FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME.
THERE ISN'T...
A SINGLE TRACE OF ME LEFT IN YOUR HEART, IS THERE?!
MEANWHILE, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT YOU!
I WAS HURT, RESENTFUL, AND DESPERATE TO FIND YOU...
...JUST SO I COULD MAKE YOU PAY.
NO...

AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
...NEVER ONCE HAVE I FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.
HER NAME
IS SAKI KUSUMOTO.
WAHHH
わあああ
SHE IS REASON I TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS,
AND MY FORMER STUDENT.

# CHAPTER 41: THE FATE OF UNREQUITED FEELINGS

SIX YEARS AGO
ピンポーン
DING DONG
COM-ING.
パタパタ
PIT PAT
バッ
POMF
ダッ TMP
TMP
ダッ
TMP
コン KNOCK
コン KNOCK
COME IN...

HELLO, KUSUMOTO-SAN.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
HERE ARE TODAY'S HANDOUTS.
WAS YOUR STOMACH UPSET AT ALL THIS MORNING?
NO...
THAT'S GOOD.
YOU SEEM TO BE FEELING MUCH BETTER LATELY.
ARE YOU ...
...READY TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL YET?
NO...
NOT...
...YET.

...I SEE.
WELL, THERE'S NO REASON TO FORCE YOURSELF.
COME WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
WHAT BOOK WERE YOU READING TODAY?
UM...
KAHO NASHIKI'S *RIKA-SAN*.
AHH, THE ONE I RECOMMENDED.
DID YOU ENJOY IT?
YEAH.
I'M GLAD.
THE EXTRA CHAPTER AT THE BACK OF THE BOOK WAS VERY...
HM?
WHAT'S THIS...
UNDER YOUR BED?
!
NO...
THAT'S...
UMM...

IS THIS ...
A NOV—
SWAP
MRR ...
DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE?
I DO, TOO.
IT'S FUN TO WRITE STORIES, ISN'T IT?
I'VE WRITTEN A LOT SINCE I WAS A STUDENT.
I DIDN'T KNOW WE SHARED A HOBBY.
THAT MAKES ME KINDA HAPPY.
PEOPLE JUST MADE FUN OF ME...
AND THE BOYS IN CLASS TEASED ME WHEN THEY FOUND OUT.
I SEE ...
DO YOU STILL WRITE?

HMM. I'D LIKE TO READ THEM SOMETIME.
I KNOW.
HOW ABOUT THIS?
WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A RELAY NOVEL WITH ME?
RELAY NOVEL?
UH-HUH. EVERY DAY,
YOU AND I TAKE TURNS WRITING A PAGE.
THIS SHOULD WORK.
LET'S USE THIS NOTEBOOK.
notebook
AND WHEN IT'S FINISHED,
YOU CAN TRY COMING TO SCHOOL.
TRY IT,
AND IF YOU STILL DON'T WANT TO COME, THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
OKAY...
I'LL TRY...

AMOUR

NOT EVEN CLOSE ...
TODAY'S SCENE WAS INTERESTING, AS WELL.
notebook
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER WITH EACH PAGE.
ESPECIALLY WITH MENTAL DESCRIPTIONS.
REALLY?
notebook

I'VE BEEN READING A LOT OF ROMANCE NOVELS AND MANGA LATELY...
OH, YEAH? I REMEMBER YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T READ THEM MUCH BEFORE.
恋と空 下
恋と空 上
ラブレター
初恋はきみに
青春デイズ 下
青春デイズ 上
好きのおもいで
WE'RE REACHING THE END OF THE NOTEBOOK.
DO YOU FEEL LIKE GOING AT ALL YET?
TO SCHOOL, I MEAN.
...
YEAH...
THAT'S GREAT!
IF YOU HAVE THE PERSEVERANCE FOR THIS, I'M SURE...
BUT,
IN RETURN...
HUH...?

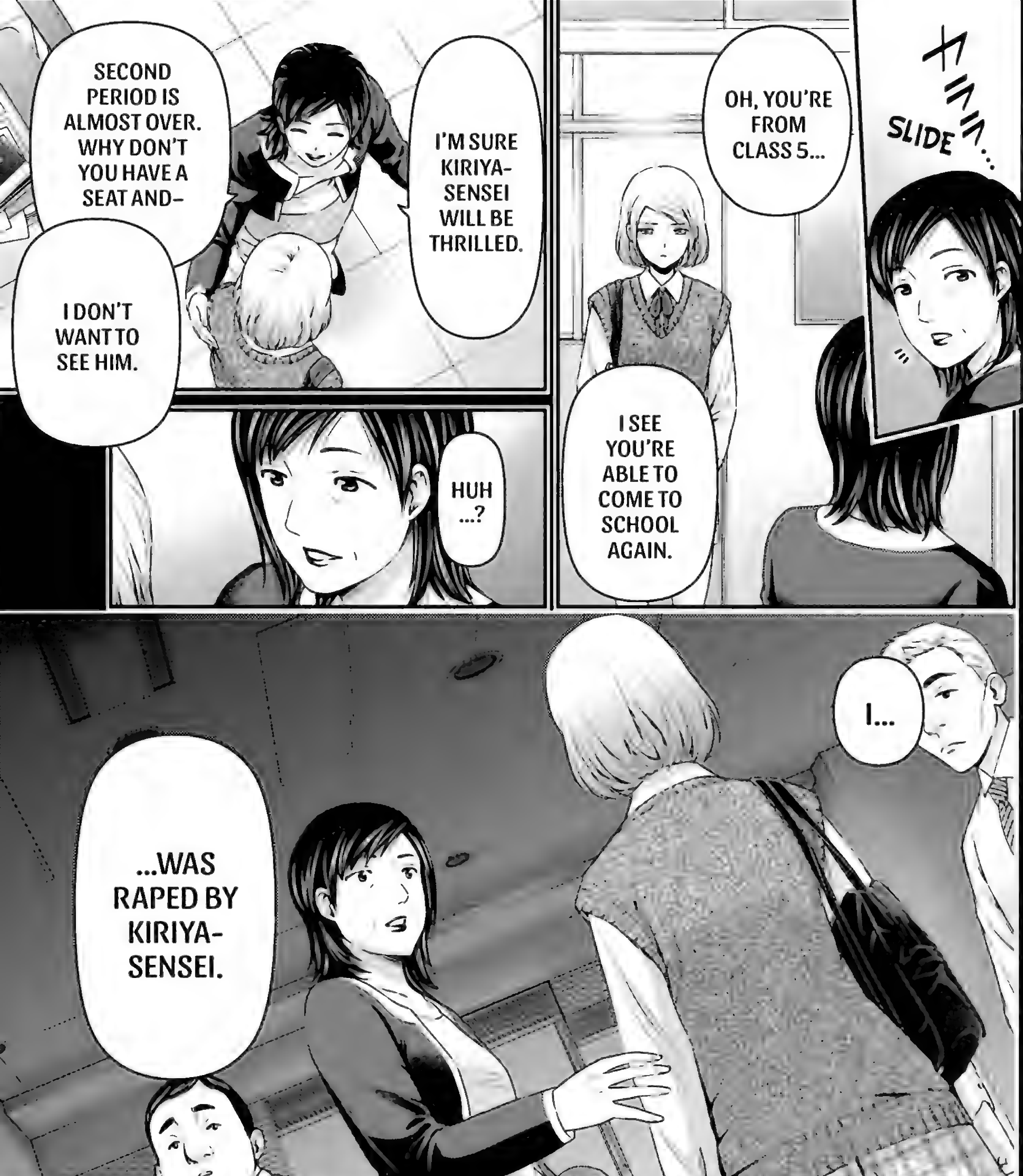
WHEN WE FINISH THE NOVEL...
...YOU WON'T COME TO MY HOUSE ANYMORE.
WILL YOU ...
...MAKE ME YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
!!
FUMP

SO,
IF YOU LET ME BE YOURS...
...I'LL GO TO SCHOOL.
YOU CAN DO...
ANYTHING YOU WANT, SENSEI.
I PROMISE I WON'T TELL ANYONE.
IF I CAN JUST BE ALONE WITH YOU LIKE THIS AGAIN,
I...

SEN-SEI...
IF I ACTED IN A WAY THAT GAVE YOU THE WRONG IDEA,
THEN I APOLOGIZE.
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I'M YOUR TEACHER, NOTHING MORE.
I CAN'T LOOK AT STUDENTS THAT WAY.
I'M SORRY.
BUT I STILL WANT YOU TO COME TO SCHOOL ONCE THE NOTEBOOK IS FILLED.
notebook
I'LL BRING IT BACK TOMORROW.

AND I'LL FORGET ABOUT...
WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.

I LOOK...
...HIDEOUS.
ピンポーン
DING DONG
パタパタ
TMP TMP
ガチャ
CLACK
SAKIII.
SENSEI BROUGHT THE HANDOUTS AND NOTEBOOK AGAIN.
HE SAID HE COULDN'T STAY, THOUGH.
I GUESS HE HAD SOME ERRANDS TO RUN.


SLIDE...
OH, YOU'RE FROM CLASS 5...
I SEE YOU'RE ABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL AGAIN.
I'M SURE KIRIYA-SENSEI WILL BE THRILLED.
SECOND PERIOD IS ALMOST OVER. WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT AND-
I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM.
HUH ...?
I...
...WAS RAPED BY KIRIYA-SENSEI.

*IT'S ALL SENSEI'S FAULT.*

*ALL I CAN DO...*

*...IS HATE HIM NOW.*

NAT-CHAN, I CAN'T GET THE PAINT OUT OF THE CRACKS.
JUST GET AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
WOULD BE GREAT IF I HAD A TOOTHPICK OR SOMETHING...
AFTER THAT,
THE OTHER TEACHERS CAME RUSHING TO SEE WHAT THE COMMOTION WAS...
...AND ASKED KIRIYA-SENSEI FOR AN EXPLANATION.
BUT ...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, SENSEI?
WHO IS THAT WOMAN?
IT'S NOTHING.
HUH?
BUT WE HEARD FROM STUDENTS THAT–

IT'S
NOTHING.
THE NEXT DAY,
THOUGH IT WAS A PERSONAL MATTER, BECAUSE HE DISPLAYED CONDUCT UNBECOMING OF A TEACHER IN FRONT OF STUDENTS,
KIRIYA-SENSEI WAS SUSPENDED FOR A WEEK.
FACULTY
IT'S NOT FAIR!
BAM
SENSEI DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
THEY DIDN'T BOTHER TRYING TO FIND OUT WHOSE FAULT IT WAS AND JUST SUSPENDED HIM FOR HITTING HER.
THEY DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO THINK!
I AGREE ...
WHY WOULD SENSEI COVER FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
I WONDER IF WE CAN TALK TO HIM SOMEHOW.
BUT WE DON'T KNOW HIS ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER ...
...

ドオオオーン
BA-DOOM
HUH?! THIS... IS WHERE KIRIYA-SENSEI LIVES?!
IT'S BIGGER THAN MOMO'S COMPLEX!
HOW'D YOU FIND THAT OUT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
ピンポーン
DING DONG
Hello?
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. MY NAME IS ASHIHARA.
?
THAT VOICE SOUNDS LIKE...
DIING
CLACK
カチャ
UMM...
ARE YOU HIS STUDENTS?

# CHAPTER 42: KIRIYA'S SECRET

COME ON IN.
UH, ERR...
YE- YES...
WHAT'S WITH THIS VIEW ...?
SENSEI'S WORKING AT THE MOMENT.
PLEASE WAIT FOR A BIT.

WHISPER ヒソ
H-HEY, DO YOU THINK...
WHISPER ヒソ
SHE'S SENSEI'S WIFE?
WHISPER ヒソ
WHISPER ヒソ
HUH? I HEARD HE WAS SINGLE.
WHISPER ヒソ
WHISPER ヒソ
THEN HIS GIRLFRIEND, MAYBE?
WHISPER ヒソ...
OR MAYBE SHE'S ANOTHER FORMER STUDENT, SINCE SHE CALLED HIM "SENSEI?"
CLACK ガチャ
SIGH...
FINALLY DONE...
!
GOOD WORK!
SORRY FOR THE DELAY.
NO PROBLEM!
AS LONG AS IT GETS DONE!
THUD バタンッ
OKAY, I'M TAKING OFF NOW.
THANKS AGAIN!
AHH...
I'M BEAT...

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU GUYS TO DROP BY.
HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVE?
MY SISTER WOULDN'T TELL ME, SO I WENT TO HAGIWARA-SAN'S COLLEGE AND FORCED IT OUT OF HIM.
I LOOKED AT HIS PHONE CONTACTS.
HMM. I'M GONNA HAVE TO GIVE HIM A TALKING TO LATER.
SO?
SHIK カチッ
WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL HERE?
I CAN'T ACCEPT THE FACT...
...THAT THEY SUSPENDED YOU.

...
WHY DID YOU COVER FOR HER, ANYWAY?
I MEAN, SHE,
THAT GIRL, SAKI, DID THINGS THAT SHOULD GET HER REPORTED TO THE POLICE!
IF YOU'D HAVE JUST EXPLAINED TO THE OTHER TEACHERS AND HANDED HER OVER,
THEN THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE SUSPENDED YOU FOR VIOLENCE.
I AGREE...
IF SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING BAD, THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED.
IT ISN'T RIGHT TO JUST LET THEM OFF THE HOOK.
...
PUNISHMENT,
HUH?
TRUE, WHAT SHE DID IS UNFORGIVEABLE.
BUT...IF SHE CHOSE TO GO TO COLLEGE, SHE'D BE IN HER THIRD YEAR NOW.
THIS IS A CRUCIAL TIME IN HER LIFE.

I TRIED TO PUNISH HER IN MY OWN WAY IN FRONT OF YOU ALL.
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
I THINK BEING PUBLICLY BEATEN BY THE ONE YOU RESENTED ...
...IS MUCH MORE HUMILIATING THAN BEING PUNISHED BY THE LAW.
WELL, I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A BAD SPOT...
...IF SHE DIDN'T SHOW ANY SIGNS OF REMORSE WHATSOEVER.
*WHEN I TOOK HER HOME IN A TAXI AFTER THAT...*
I'M SORRY,
SENSEI ...

I'M ALSO ...
...PARTLY RESPONSIBLE.
...
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL ANGRY TOWARDS HER,
BUT PLEASE JUST LET IT GO.
AND I MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED,
BUT, WELL ...
...HONESTLY, IT COULDN'T HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME. I HAD A DEADLINE FOR WORK COMING UP, ANYWAY.
SO DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.
WORK? YOU MEAN FOR SCHOOL?
OH.
THAT REMINDS ME. WHO WAS THAT WOMAN?
SHE'S MY EDITOR.
E-EDITOR ...?
AHH ...

I ALSO WRITE NOVELS ON THE SIDE.
WH-
WHAAAAAT?!
NOVELS?!
YOU'RE A NOVELIST?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
FWOO
I HAVEN'T TOLD THE SCHOOL, THOUGH.
D-DO YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS PUBLISHED?!
YES, TWELVE OR SO.
WHAT'S YOUR PEN-NAME?!
YOU HASUKAWA.
YO-
YOU...
...HASUKAWA?
CAN YOU LET GO OF ME, PLEASE?
YOUR HANDS ARE SWEATY.
SORRY, HE'S A BIG FAN, APPARENTLY.
EASY
HASU...
EASY
...KAWA.
AHH, YOU DID MENTION THAT BEFORE.
OH, RIGHT.
LET ME ASK YOU GUYS WHILE WE'RE AT IT.
IT'S ABOUT THE STORIES YOU WROTE FOR THE FESTIVAL PUBLICATION.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ENTERING THEM FOR AN AWARD?
...
AWARD?
AN AMATEUR AWARD.
FOR NOVELS.
THE MAGAZINE I'M SERIALIZED IN JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE LOOKING FOR AMATEUR WORKS.
YOUR STORIES WERE WELL-WRITTEN,
SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO ENTER THEM.
IF YOU RECEIVE AN AWARD,
IT WILL DEFINITELY BRING YOU CLOSER TO GOING PRO.
THOUGH EVEN IF YOU DON'T PLAN TO GO PRO, I THINK IT'LL LOOK GOOD ON A TRANSCRIPT OR RESUME.

PRO...
ME...
...A NOVELIST?
I DON'T REALLY CARE, EITHER WAY...
CLAT
YES, PLEASE!
THIS FEELS LIKE A DREAM.
YOU MEAN THE AWARD?
THAT, TOO,
BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT A WRITER I ADMIRE HAS BEEN SO CLOSE TO ME ALL THIS TIME.
THOUGH I GUESS HE KEEPS IT A SECRET AT SCHOOL.
THIS GIVES US GOOD BLACKMAIL MATERIAL ON KIRIYA-SENSEI FOR WHEN THE TIME COMES...
WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING ...?

ASHIHARA-SAN!
MORNING!
MORNING!
WE WERE OUT PRETTY LATE YESTERDAY. WAS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT AT HOME?
YEAH.
MY BROTHER JUST TEASED ME ABOUT HAVING A DATE.
BUT I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP LAST NIGHT THANKS TO THAT SHOCKING REVELATION.
HA HA
ME, NEITHER.
THE REAL SHOCK WAS YOU, ASHIHARA-SAN.
I WAS SURE YOU AND KIRIYA-SENSEI WERE DATING.
HUH?
WHAT?!
I MEAN, DIDN'T YOU GUYS MEET UP OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL BEFORE THE FESTIVAL?

HUH ...?
OHH! YOU MEAN AT THE CAFÉ IN FRONT OF THE STATION?
YEAH.
YOU WERE CRYING, TOO.
I JUST HAPPENED TO RUN INTO SENSEI AT THE BOOKSTORE.
I WAS ASKING HIM FOR ADVICE ABOUT THE COMPOSITION FOR THE PUBLICATION AND STUFF.
AT THE TIME, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE GRAFFITI INCIDENT,
BUT WHEN I ASKED SENSEI ABOUT IT...
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, ASHIHARA-KUN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHEN HE SAID THAT,
IT MADE ME SO SAD...
I FEEL YOU.
I'M SO EMBARRASSED THAT YOU SAW ME!

IT'S A GOOD THING...
THE WOMAN YESTERDAY WASN'T HIS GIRLFRIEND, HUH?
!
YOU WERE PALE AS A GHOST WHEN WE WERE WAITING FOR SENSEI,
THEN YOU WERE ALL SMILES WHEN WE LEFT.
NO...
NO I WASN'T...!
BLUSH
かあ
WERE TOO.
OH, JEEZ!
LEAVE ME ALONE, FUJII-KUN!
BUMP
WHA?
UH-OH.

AH!
AHHHHH!
BRMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THUD
FUJII-KUN!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

NAT-SUO-KUN!
CLACK
I HEARD YOU GOT HURT AT SCHOOL!
YUP.
I KINDA SNAPPED MY LEG UP.
WHAT? YOU BROKE YOUR LEG?!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?!
I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS...
IT'S JUST A STRESS FRACTURE, SO IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
STILL...
LOOKS PAINFUL.
I'M GONNA GET DINNER READY.
ARE YOU STAYING OVER, HINA-NEE?
I HAVE TO GET READY FOR CLASS TOMORROW, SO I'LL GO HOME TONIGHT.

SORRY TO WORRY YOU WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY.
FWIP
FWIP
I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT YOU WITH MY LEG LIKE THIS.
IT'S FINE. DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
BUT...
...IT'S GONNA BE LONELY.
GOOD GU
I'LL BE LONELY, TOO.
BUT LETTING YOUR LEG HEAL IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
SINCE WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE,
I'LL SEND PHOTOS.
OKAY?
OKAY...

THANKS FOR DINNER.
...
UHH.
IT'S KINDA HARD TO EAT WITH YOU STARING AT ME.
ズーンッ
SLUMP
AHHH! DON'T LIE ON MY LEG!
Y'KNOW,
I'M KINDA HAPPY...
...THAT YOU FRACTURED YOUR LEG.

HUH?
HAP-PY?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
MY LEG HURTS AND IT'S A PAIN TO MOVE. THIS SUCKS!
WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY ABOUT-
ちゅ
CHAP
BLEH.
THAT WAS OUR FIRST KISS IN A WHILE, BUT IT TASTED LIKE MACKEREL AND MISO.
AND YOU TASTED LIKE YAKIUDON BEFORE...

I MEAN, LATELY YOU'VE BEEN GOING OVER TO FUMIYA-KUN'S HOUSE A LOT...
...AND DON'T EVEN EAT DINNER AT HOME.
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO REST AT HOME FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
I'LL BE SURE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU...
...SO YOU DON'T GET BORED WHILE YOU HEAL.
BUT! YOU BETTER LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY, OR I WON'T MAKE YOU DINNER, OKAY?
...
OKAY...

# CHAPTER 43: NURSING

I THOUGHT MY HEART WAS GOING TO STOP WHEN YOU CALLED ME.
YOU JUST SAID HE GOT HURT AND WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL...
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT HE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS.
POOR THING. THAT MUST'VE HURT.
AND HE HAS TO WEAR A CAST FOR TWO MONTHS...
RUI,
MAKE SURE YOU LEND NATSUO-KUN A HAND WITH THINGS, OKAY?
BUT HE SURE IS CLUMSY TO HAVE–
BTMP
TMP
TMP
WHA-
TMP
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!

AHH ...
YOU DUMMY!
I TOLD YOU TO CALL FOR US WHEN YOU GET UP!
WELL ...
I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE IT DOWN WITH THE HANDRAIL.
GOOD GUNZ
GRAND PARADE GARAGE
WHAT'LL YOU DO IF YOU MAKE IT WORSE?
ASK FOR HELP FROM NOW ON!
CHATTER ざわ
CHATTER ざわ
CHATTER ざわ
UHH ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

PLEASE GET UP,
ASHIHARA-SAN...
EVERYONE'S STARING AT US...
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I KNOW AN APOLOGY ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR THIS!
GRAB
I'LL PAY FOR YOUR MEDICAL EXPENSES, OF COURSE!
LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU!
OKAY?!
IT'S FINE, REALLY...
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, NATSUO.
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
WHY NOT HAVE HER *TAKE CARE OF YOU*, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
SHUT UP, YOU GUYS.

THANKS FOR DINNER ...
ぽ
POMF
っす
MAN ...
MOVING EVEN A LITTLE BIT WEARS ME OUT.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU DO ALL THE CHORES.
IT'S FINE. YOU CAN'T HELP IT.
THE BATH SHOULD BE READY.
THINK YOU CAN GET IN?
YEAH.
IT SHOULD BE FINE IF I PUT A BAG OVER MY CAST.
THE REAL TROUBLE IS MY BOXERS.
HUP ...
ERR ...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET THEM OFF MY STANDING LEG?

ドタン
THUD
WHAT HAPPENED?!
OW...
I LOST MY BALANCE TRYING TO TAKE MY PANTS OFF...
THAT'S WHY I ASKED IF YOU NEEDED HELP...
SORRY...
COME ON.
LIFT YOUR HIPS UP.
WE NEED TO TAKE YOUR BOXERS OFF, TOO, RIGHT?
HUH?!
IT-
IT'S FINE, JUST LEAVE 'EM ON!
NO BUTS.
MOVE IT!

A-AT LEAST GIVE ME A TOWEL TO COVER UP!
C'MON!
WHO CARES?
I'VE ALREADY SEEN IT.
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE!
WHAT KINDA KINKY ROLEPLAY IS THIS ...?
I'LL PUT TWO RUBBER BANDS ON.

ザバ
PLSH
SIGH...
I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD BE THIS IMMOBILE WITH ONLY ONE LEG...
I'M WORN OUT AFTER A DAY.
I HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP FOR TWO MONTHS?
MAN...
ガチャ
CLACK
UWAHHH!
H-HEY...
WHAT'RE YOU COMING IN FOR?!
GET OUT!
HUH?
パタン
THUD

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF BY YOURSELF.
SOOSH
MOM TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU A HAND WITH EVERYTHING.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO INJURE YOURSELF EVEN MORE WHILE I'M AROUND.
A-
AT LEAST...
...TURN THE LIGHTS OFF SO IT'S HARD TO SEE, OKAY?!
MOVE YOUR LEG A BIT.

チャプ CHAP
...
SHIT...
MY EYES ARE ADJUSTING...
SOMEHOW...
...THE DARKNESS...
...MAKES THIS EVEN HOTTER...
FWIP
SENSEI! DON'T GET ME WRONG!
THROB
THIS IS BEYOND MY CONTROL...
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT CHEATING!
THROB

SHOULD I WASH YOUR BODY NOW?
STAYING IN TOO LONG WILL MAKE YOU DIZZY.
UH ...
SURE ...
PUT YOUR LEG DOWN FIRST.
JUST LEAN ON ME.
!
HEY...
I CAN FEEL THEM, Y'KNOW!

ENOUGH ALREADY, MAN!
HEY! DON'T SLOUCH SO MUCH.
YOU'RE HEAVY...
GYOOP ギュプ
GYOOP ギュプ
わしゃ SKRISH
わしゃ SKRISH
SCRUB しゃわ
SCRUB しゃわ
SCRUB しゃわ
SHUDDER ぞくっ…

WHOA...
HER SOAPY HANDS...
...RUNNING ALL OVER MY BACK...
...FEEL SO SLIPPERY.
SHOULD I DO THE FRONT, TOO?
LIKE YOUR LEG.
I CAN HANDLE THAT MYSELF!
OKAY. LET ME MAKE MORE FOAM FIRST.
UHH ...
BODY SOAP ...
WHERE'S THE BODY SOAP?
SQUEEZE
ゆむっ
HUH?

うぎゃあぁあ!!
GYAHHH!
I'M SORRY, OKAY?
WERE YOU TURNED ON?
NO!
GUYS GET LIKE THAT EVEN IF THEY AREN'T?
JUST SHUT UP!

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT
喫茶&BAR
AH, HA, HA!
SOUNDS LIKE NATSUO-CHAN HAD A ROUGH TIME.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO GRIP IT *THAT* HARD...
WELL, IT'S ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE AT FULL MAST.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN BUSY WITH THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL AND ALL...
...BUT A LOT SURE HAS HAPPENED SINCE I LAST SAW YOU GUYS.
YEAH.
IT GAVE ME A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.

LIKE WHAT?
LIKE ABOUT KIRIYA-SENSEI'S OLD STUDENT.
I MEAN,
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
SHE LOVED SENSEI, RIGHT?
THEN WHY DID SHE COME TO HATE HIM?
I THINK THAT HER "LOVE" IS PROBABLY THE SAME "LOVE" THAT MOST PEOPLE FEEL.
WANTING TO DO THINGS TOGETHER, OR FOR EACH OTHER, STUFF LIKE THAT.
BUT WHY DID HER FEELINGS TURN UPSIDE-DOWN WHEN THEY DID?
DID SHE JUST DECIDE TO HATE HIM BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T HAVE HER WAY?
IS THERE...
...A CHANCE THAT I COULD TURN OUT LIKE THAT, TOO?
I DUNNO.
...
WELL,
I CAN'T SAY THERE'S *NO* CHANCE.

...
IT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION.
THERE WAS THAT FAMOUS EXPERIMENT WITH THE PRISONERS AND GUARDS, RIGHT?
A CERTAIN UNIVERSITY GATHERED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE OFF THE STREET FOR AN EXPERIMENT.
THEY WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO ROLES, PRISONERS AND GUARDS, AND WERE MADE TO LIVE TOGETHER FOR TWO WEEKS.
MAYBE BECAUSE THEY MADE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE ONE SIDE DOMINATES AND THE OTHER SIDE SUBMITS,
BUT APPARENTLY, THE GUARDS WHO SWORE THEY WOULD NEVER TO USE VIOLENCE ENDED UP DOING SO PRETTY EARLY INTO THE EXPERIMENT.
THIS IS JUST A WIDELY-USED EXAMPLE OF HOW ENVIRONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES DETERMINE A PERSON'S ACTIONS.
JUST AS YOU SAID, RUI-RUI,
IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO.
WELL,
NOT TO SAY THAT GOES FOR EVERYONE, BUT...
PHEW...
DONE AT LAST!

HEY, BOSS. I FINISHED TAKING STOCK.
MY BACK HURTS
...
GOOD WORK.
OH, FUMIYA-KUN.
NATSUO MIGHT'VE TOLD YOU ALREADY,
BUT HE FRACTURED HIS LEG AND WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO YOUR HOUSE FOR A WHILE.
I KNOW IT MIGHT GET LONELY, SINCE HE'S BEEN GOING OVER A LOT LATELY, BUT...
HUH?
LATELY?
NATSUO HASN'T COME OVER TO MY PLACE IN A WHILE.

# CHAPTER 44: LIE

I'M BACK.
HEY.
WELCOME BACK.
HM? WHERE'D MOM AND FUJII-SAN GO?
SHOPPING.
HMM...

WH- WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU TENSING UP?
I'M NOT GONNA SQUEEZE IT AGAIN.
...
Y'KNOW,
I STOPPED BY L'AMANT TODAY.
AND ...
...I HEARD YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO FUMIYA-KUN'S HOUSE IN A WHILE.
...!
SO WHERE *HAVE* YOU BEEN GOING?

WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME?
...
...
ACTUALLY...
...I'VE BEEN GOING TO MOMO'S.
MOMO?
I TOLD YOU HOW I HAD DINNER AT HER PLACE BEFORE, RIGHT?

WELL, SHE'S BEEN INVITING ME OVER MORE.
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO SAY NO,
SO I'VE BEEN EATING AT HER PLACE.
BUT YOU'D GET UPSET IF I TOLD YOU THAT, RIGHT?
SO ...
OHH.
IS THAT ALL?
I'M NOT UPSET OR ANYTHING.
THEN WHAT'S WITH THOSE PUFFED CHEEKS?
ム
POUT
ス"
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST BEEN STRAIGHT WITH ME.
IT FEELS WAY WORSE BEING LIED TO.

AND IF YOU GO TO MOMO'S HOUSE...
...YOU REALIZE I'LL HAVE TO EAT ALL BY MYSELF, DON'T YOU?
SO, THE NEXT TIME SHE INVITES YOU OVER, LET ME KNOW.
...GOT IT.
SORRY.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH YOU, MAN?
THANKS, FUMIYA.
I WOULD'VE PANICKED IF YOU HADN'T CALLED ME.

JUST MAKE SURE YOU TELL ME ABOUT THAT STUFF NEXT TIME!
I WAS SWEATING BECAUSE I THOUGHT I LET SOMETHING BAD SLIP.
SORRY, SORRY.
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE YOU DO DESERVE TO SUFFER A LITTLE BIT.
AS PAYMENT FOR YOUR HAPPINESS.
YOUR BROKEN LEG IS PUNISHMENT FOR PULLING AHEAD.
DON'T BE LIKE THAT...
BUT REALLY,
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT, HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BAGGED YOUR FIRST LOVE.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D HAVE TO GIVE UP.
I CAN STILL HARDLY BELIEVE IT, EITHER.
IT FEELS WRONG TO BE THIS HAPPY.
EAT SHIT.
BUT WILL EVERYTHING BE OKAY?
WHAT?
CONSIDERING HINA-SENSEI'S POSITION, THINGS COULD GET REAL UGLY IF YOUR RELATIONSHIP GETS OUT.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN—

NO ONE'S GONNA FIND OUT!
EVERYTHING'S FINE!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
AND I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE, TOO, Y'KNOW.
WHAT I CAN DO TO BE WITH SENSEI.
I'M GONNA WORK HARD TO BECOME AN AUTHOR.
I SWEAR...
...I'LL MAKE SENSEI HAPPY.
WELL,
I'LL JUST PUT A CURSE ON YOU SO YOU STEP IN DOG SHIT ON A DATE OR SOMETHING.
IT STILL PISSES ME OFF.
WHAT THE HELL, MAN?

WANNA STOP BY ANYWHERE?
LET'S GO TO MUJI.
I WANNA SEE HER...
CUTE...
...A CURSE SO YOU STEP IN DOG SHIT ON A DATE...
I DON'T CARE IF I STEP IN POOP. I WANNA GO ON DATES!
FLAP じた FLAP ばた
MAYBE I'LL GO VISIT HER TODAY...

from Hina-sens

sub Today's Menu

I made cabbage rolls today! They look bad, but I think I did a good job.

CLACK ガラッ
ビクッ
JOLT
OH.
YOU'RE ALREADY HERE.
YOU'RE EARLY.
THE TEACHER LET ME SKIP CLEANING DUTY BECAUSE OF MY LEG.
YEAH?
I'M JEALOUS.
HEY,
I'M, UH...
...GONNA GO TO FUMIYA'S PLACE TODAY.
YOU MEAN MOMO'S?
I REALLY MEAN FUMIYA'S THIS TIME!
STARE じーっ
REEE-ALLY?
Y-YEAH, HONEST!
I WANNA APOLOGIZE FOR GETTING HIM CAUGHT UP IN MY LIE.
I SEE.
WELL, MAKE SURE YOU APOLOGIZE PROPERLY, OKAY?

MM...

JEEZ.
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF DINNER.
SORRY.
IT'S JUST...
...WHEN I WATCHED YOUR LIPS WHILE YOU WERE EATING, I COULDN'T HOLD MYSELF BACK.
SERIOUSLY?
EWW, WHAT A PERVERT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU ONLY JUST REALIZED?
I THOUGHT YOU STOPPED EATING...
BECAUSE THE DORIA WASN'T VERY GOOD OR SOMETHING.
OH, IT'S GOOD.
I WANNA EAT MORE.
AND YOU WANT ME TO FEED YOU, I TAKE IT?
JEEZ...

ITH GUH.
GLAD TO HEAR IT. ♪
THEN AGAIN, ALL YOU DID WAS PUT SAUCE AND CHEESE OVER RICE AND POP IT IN THE OVEN.
WHITE SAUCE
SHREDDED CHEESE
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO MENTION THAT.
I DID ADD BACON, Y'KNOW.
OH, YEAH. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING BY AT HOME?
IT MUST BE HARD CLIMBING THE STAIRS OR TAKING A BATH, RIGHT?
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO IT?
MMM... I STILL STUMBLE A BIT.
FOR THE STAIRS, I ASK ANYONE WHO'S AROUND FOR HELP.
AS FOR BATHS...

I GET BY SOMEHOW.
I DO FALL SOMETIMES WHEN I TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF, THOUGH.
WHAT? THAT'S DANGEROUS.
...
IF WE WERE STILL LIVING TOGETHER,
WOULD YOU HELP ME OUT WITH BATHS?
YOU MEAN HELP YOU IN AND OUT?
LIKE TAKING THEM TOGETHER.
TOGETHER?!
UHH...
コト…TAK
SURE...
JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HURT YOURSELF...

REALLY?
THAT ANSWER ALONE...
...MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY.

SENSEI'S...
...SO SOFT!
MAYBE...
...I'LL TAKE A BATH HERE, AFTER ALL.
WHAT?!
EVERYONE'LL FIND OUT IF YOU DO THAT!
IT'LL BE FINE IF I JUST TAKE ANOTHER ONE WHEN I GET HOME.
CAN WE?
...
HEY,
SENSEI...

OH, FINE!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
I CAN'T SAY NO...
WHEN YOU PLAY THE INJURED CARD.

AH!
NEVERMIND. THE BATH CAN WAIT...
CAN I?
MY LEG'S MESSED UP,
SO I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT WELL, BUT...

NATSUO...
KUN...
ピンポーン
DING DONG
!
OH...
THAT MIGHT BE A DELIVERY.
COMING!
GRRR...
ガチャ
CLACK
HELLO! THANKS FOR...
RUI...!

# CHAPTER 45: RAIN

HHSKS
RUI ...!

HOW THE HELL...
...DO I WEASEL MY WAY OUT OF THIS ONE?!
IS SHE MAD?
OF COURSE SHE IS. I LIED AGAIN.
DIDN'T YOU SAY FUMIYA'S PLACE?
I CAN PREDICT WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NEXT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THINK, NATSUO!
I JUST HADN'T SEEN HER IN A WHILE, SO...
THAT'S BASICALLY GIVING IT AWAY!
SENSEI FORGOT SOMETHING IN MY ROOM THE OTHER DAY, SO I CAME TO RETURN IT...
WHY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY?
WAY TOO FORCED!
I HAD A QUESTION ABOUT MY ENGLISH HOMEWORK.
THAT'S IT!
High School English
UH...
I...

DASH
RUI!
WAIT!
...
UMBREL-LAS?
SHE BROUGHT ONE FOR NATSUO-KUN?

THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER TIMES.
COMPLETELY.
JUST NOW,
I...
I'M THE ONE...
...WHO MADE HER CRY.
WHERE DID...
YOU TELL RUI YOU'D BE?

...!
OH.
UHH ...
I SAID I WAS GOING TO FUMIYA'S...
YOU...
...SHOULD PROBABLY GO HOME.
FOR YOUR SAKE, TOO.

カチャ
CLACK!!!
WEL-COME HOME.
HEY.
...
WHERE'S RUI?
I JUST GOT HOME, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HER.
MAYBE SHE WENT TO THE STORE?
ピルルル
BORRRR!!
ピルルル
BORRRR!!
!
HELLO ?!
HEY, NAT-SUO?
IT'S FUMIYA.
SORRY IF I INTERRUPTED YOUR FUN, BUT I THOUGHT I SHOULD CALL.
RUI-CHAN CAME OVER EARLIER.
SHE CAME TO GET YOU SINCE IT'S RAINING.
...!
YOU SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP GETTING BUSTED?
I TOLD HER YOU'D ALREADY LEFT, BUT...
SHE SEEMED REALLY WORRIED, Y'KNOW.

SHHH
…
SPTCH SPTCH
…
SORRY…

SLAP
GAH!
HEY!
SLAP
WAI-
SLAP
BFF!
SLAP

!!
THUD
すっ
ぼ
BOMF
LIAR ...!

ZRR
ズル…
ZRRR
ズルル…
I'M SORRY...
S S S I HH
ア ア ア ア
...

WHY ARE YOU ALL MUDDY...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD AN UMBRELLA?
OH ...
ACTUALLY, IT WAS MORE THE UMBRELLA'S FAULT.
I HAD A CRUTCH IN ONE HAND, AND THE UMBRELLA IN THE OTHER,
SO I LOST MY BALANCE AND FELL A FEW TIMES.
*ARE YOU STUPID?*
WHY GO OUT IN THE RAIN WITH THAT LEG?
IT'S BEEN HOW MANY DAYS SINCE YOU GOT YOUR CAST, AND YOU STILL FALL DOWN?
*DID YOU BREAK YOUR BRAIN WHEN YOU FELL, TOO?*
WELL, SORRY ...
I HAD NO IDEA WHERE YOU WENT, SO I SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR YOU!
I HAD TO DEAL WITH HILLS AND STAIRS AND STUFF, SO CAN YOU REALLY BLAME ME?

YOU REALLY ARE STUPID...
YOU COULD'VE JUST LEFT ME ALONE.
HEY ...
...
WHY DID YOU THINK I'D BE AT SENSEI'S?
I WENT TO FUMIYA-KUN'S HOUSE FIRST...
...BECAUSE I BELIEVED YOU.

...
WHEN I ASKED IF YOU WERE THERE, HE SAID YOU'D ALREADY LEFT,
SO I WENT HOME, THINKING WE JUST MISSED EACH OTHER OR SOMETHING.
BUT YOU STILL WEREN'T HOME WHEN I GOT BACK,
AND YOU WOULDN'T ANSWER YOUR PHONE, SO I THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT'VE HAPPENED.
THEN,
WHEN I WENT TO YOUR ROOM TO LOOK FOR CLUES ...

...I FOUND THE NOVEL YOU WROTE...
...AND DECIDED TO READ IT.
遠い手
IT WAS A STORY ABOUT A STUDENT FALLS IN LOVE WITH A TEACHER.
AND THAT TEACHER HAS A BOYFRIEND.
AFTER I READ THAT,
EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN BUGGING ME UNTIL NOW STARTED TO FALL INTO PLACE.
I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU WERE AT HINA-NEE'S, THAT WOULD SETTLE IT.

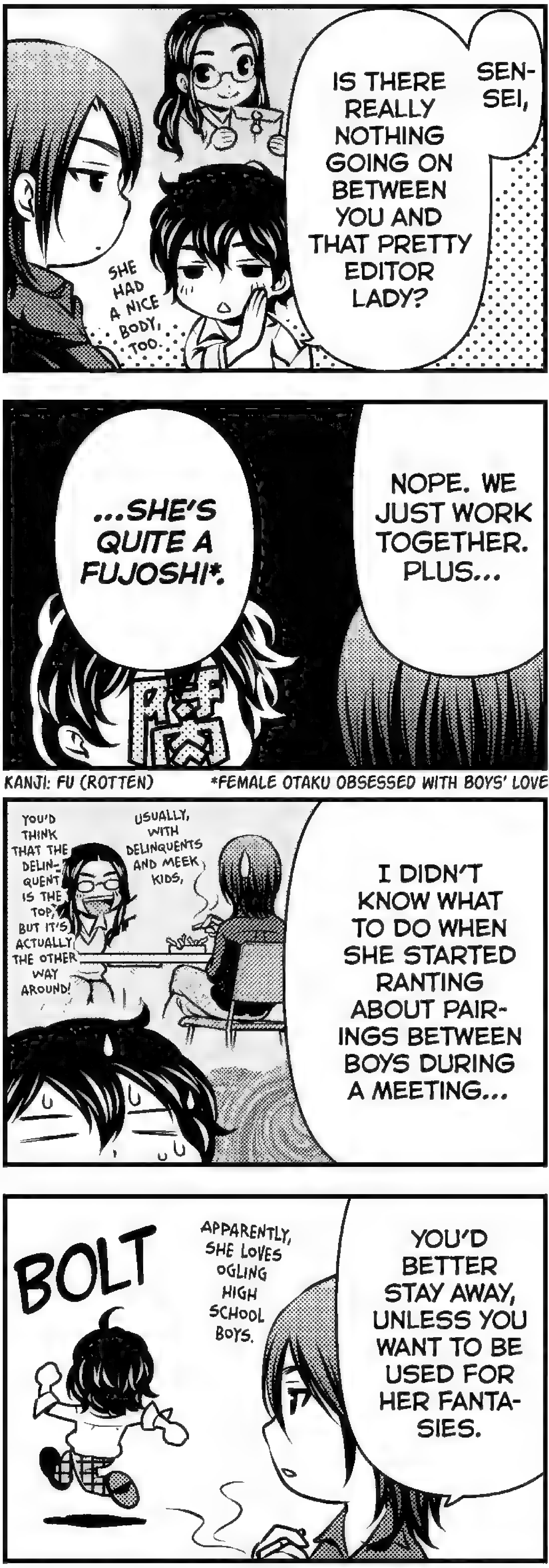
ARE YOU ...
...IN LOVE WITH HINA-NEE?

...
YEAH.
I'VE BEEN ...
...IN LOVE WITH HER FOR A LONG TIME.

...to be continued.

# DG 4-PANEL THEATER

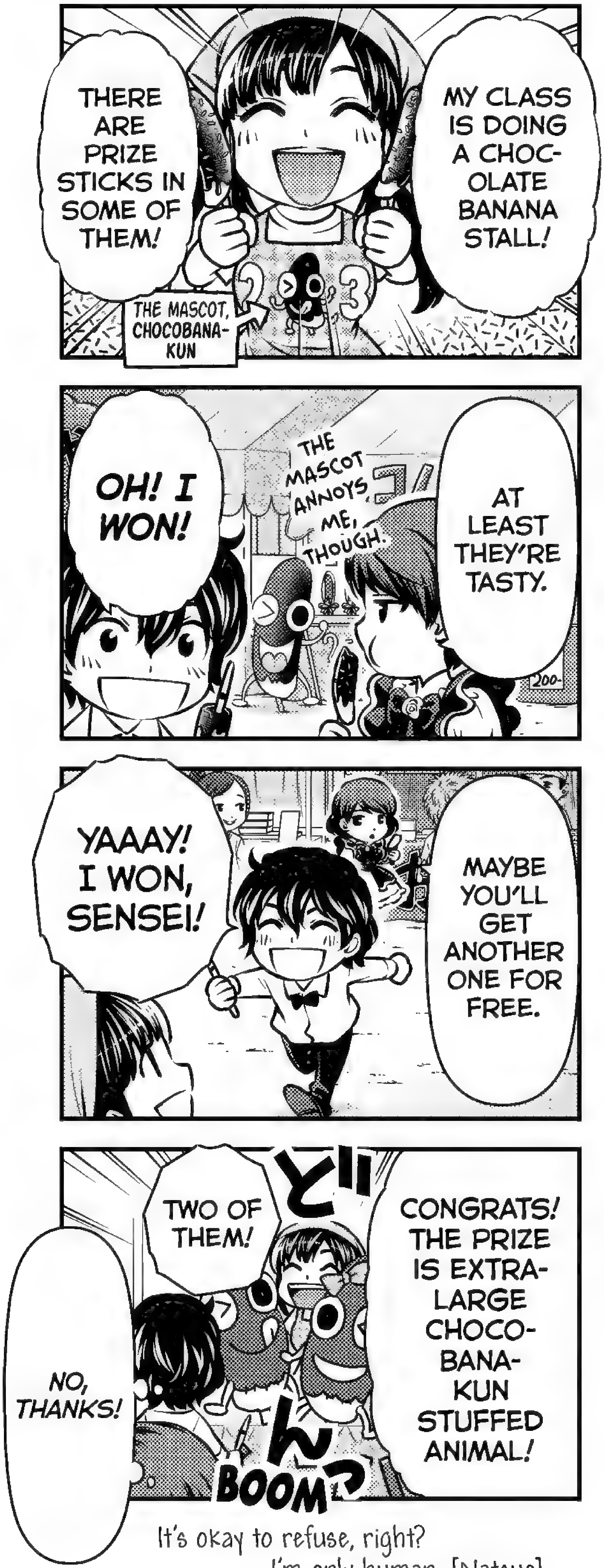
## HER FANATICISM


SEN-SEI,
IS THERE REALLY NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND THAT PRETTY EDITOR LADY?
SHE HAD A NICE BODY, TOO.
NOPE. WE JUST WORK TOGETHER. PLUS...
...SHE'S QUITE A FUJOSHI*.
腐
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN SHE STARTED RANTING ABOUT PAIRINGS BETWEEN BOYS DURING A MEETING...
USUALLY, WITH DELINQUENTS AND MEEK KIDS,
YOU'D THINK THAT THE DELINQUENT IS THE TOP, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY, UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE USED FOR HER FANTASIES.
APPARENTLY, SHE LOVES OGLING HIGH SCHOOL BOYS.
BOLT

KANJI: FU (ROTTEN) *FEMALE OTAKU OBSESSED WITH BOYS' LOVE.

Her go-to threat is,
"I'll make a doujinshi with you in it!"

## WINNER


MY CLASS IS DOING A CHOCOLATE BANANA STALL!
THERE ARE PRIZE STICKS IN SOME OF THEM!
THE MASCOT, CHOCOBANA-KUN
AT LEAST THEY'RE TASTY.
THE MASCOT ANNOYS ME, THOUGH.
OH! I WON!
200-
MAYBE YOU'LL GET ANOTHER ONE FOR FREE.
YAAAY! I WON, SENSEI!
CONGRATS! THE PRIZE IS EXTRA-LARGE CHOCO-BANA-KUN STUFFED ANIMAL!
TWO OF THEM!
どん
BOOM
NO, THANKS!

It's okay to refuse, right?
I'm only human. [Natsuo]

## EXTRA MANGA

# SWEET HOME MAGIC

SASUGA KEI

THANKS FOR DINNER!
COMING HOME AFTER BEING ON YOUR OWN REALLY MAKES YOU APPRECIATE FAMILY!
THE FOOD'S SO GOOD!
OH, YEAH!
GET THIS.
NISHIHARA-SENSEI GAVE ME SOME NEAT SUPPLEMENTS TODAY.
SHE SAID IF YOU TAKE THEM AFTER MEALS, THEY'LL HELP WITH WEIGHT LOSS!
AND APPARENTLY, THEY'RE GREAT FOR ANTI-AGING.
PLUS, THEY DO WONDERS FOR SKIN.
I BROUGHT SOME FOR YOU GUYS.
WEIGHT LOSS AND SKIN CARE, HUH?
NOT SURE I REALLY NEED THAT STUFF.
キャーーッ!!
EEEEEK?!

WHAT'S WRONG?!
N-N-NATSUO-KUN...
IT'S HINA AND RUI...
THEY'VE TURNED INTO CHILDREN!
HUH?!
ERR...
WHAT?!
とて とて
PLAP PLAP
UP!
HUUUUH?!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
PHEW...
SURPRISINGLY, TO BE CONTINUED.

**Domestic Girlfriend 5**

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